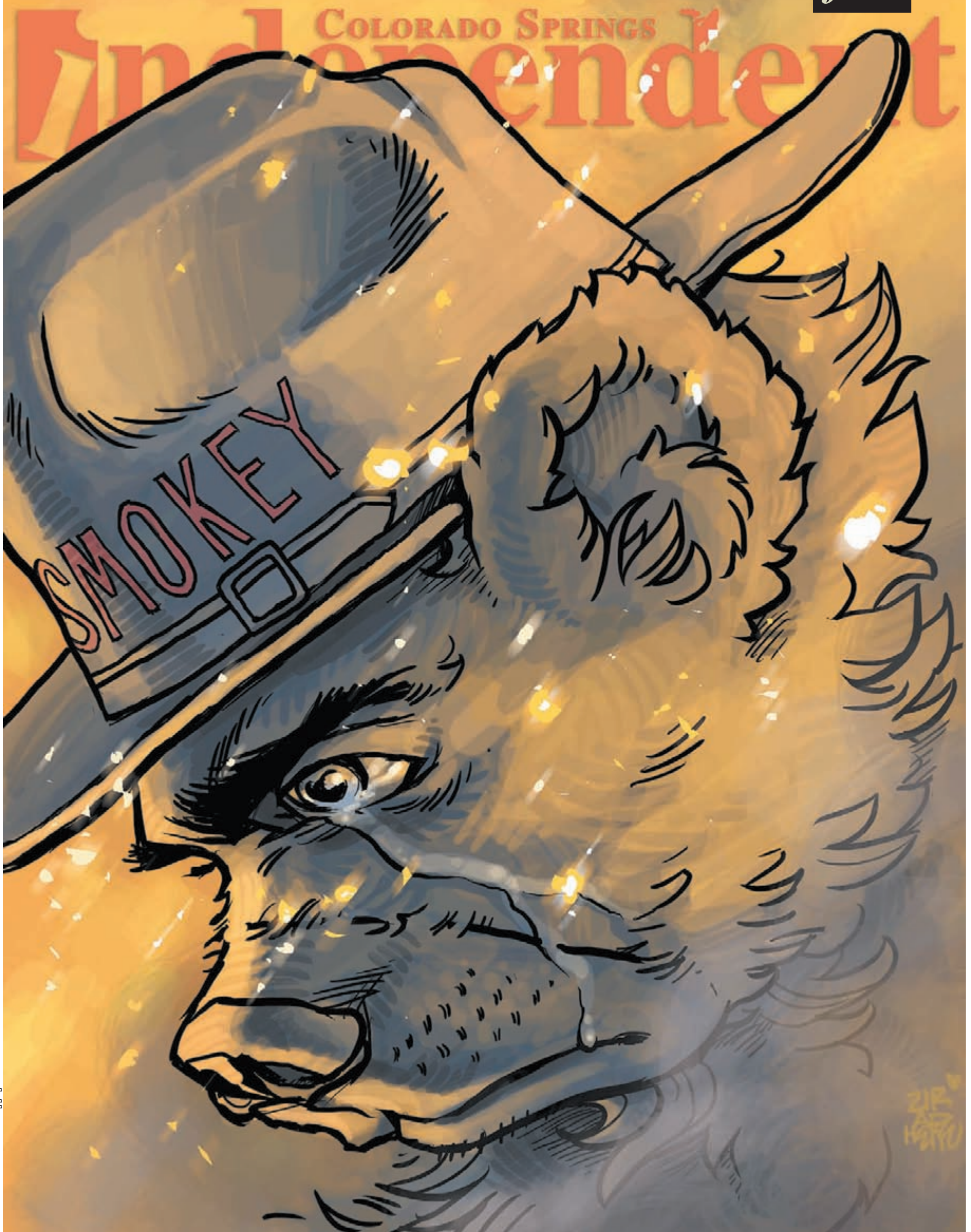
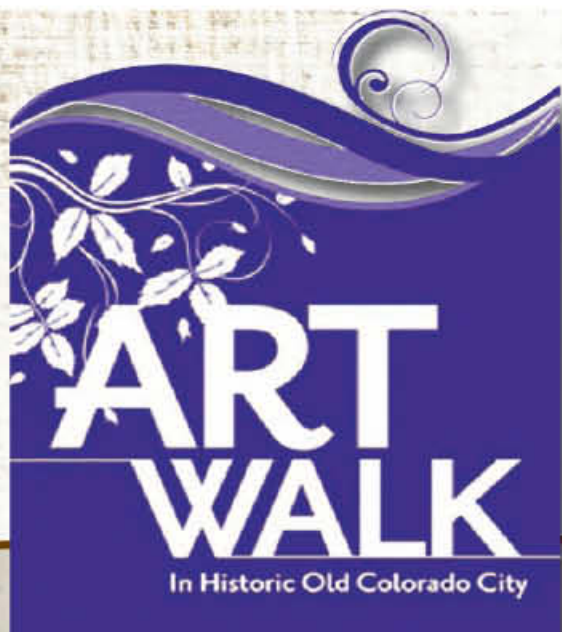






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News: Tuesday nightmare

In one day, the Waldo Canyon Fire grew thousands of acres after a column of heated smoke and ash, visible for miles in every direction, collapsed on the city's northwest side. In the words of firefighter Sandi Yukman: "It hit like a watermelon and exploded."



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Audio: The Procussions

When Jason "Mr. J." Medeiros and longtime collaborator Stro booked their Procussions reunion gigs in Colorado, one of the last things they were expecting was for all hell to break loose right here in their former hometown.



55

Last Words: Ranger Rich

As the heavy, sickening smoke of the Waldo Canyon Fire washes across our village and keeps our worst fears alive, there's a place where you can stand and cheer and cry out from deep inside, a place where the soul finally finds something more powerful than grief.

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On the Cover

Art by Jonas McCluggage.

UpComing

• We know you're waiting for a bit of ReLeaf. Our next guide to all things medical marijuana in the Pikes Peak region will hit the racks July 18.



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• Join us at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 4, in raising money for the Waldo Canyon Fire Victim Assistance Fund through the **A Community Rises** Wildfire Relief Concert, live at the World Arena and simulcast on all local TV stations and many local radio stations. In a joint statement, sponsors the *Independent* and Focus on the Family say, "We are united in reaching out to fire victims in their time of need and also honoring those risking their lives fighting this devastating tragedy." Details on p. 4.

A Community Rises: July 4 Wildfire Relief Benefit Concert at World Arena

Outpouring of support by local organizations to help aid victims of the
#WaldoCanyonFire



Wednesday, July 4 • 7pm

at the World Arena (doors open at 6pm)

All tickets have been dispersed, but limited seats may become available for walk-up attendees.

Featuring live performances by:

- Colorado Springs Philharmonic • the Flying W Wranglers • Michael Martin Murphey
- Flash Cadillac • Special appearance by Isaac Slade of The Fray

The masters of ceremony will include anchors from our local television stations. The concert will also be simulcast on KOAA 5, Rocky Mountain PBS, KXRM Fox 21, KRDO, KKTU 11 News, KRCC 91.5 FM, 88.7 KCME-FM, 92.9 PEAK FM, Cat Country 95.1 FM, Classic Rock 98.1 KKFM, KLite 106.3, My 99.9, Y96.9, 96.1 The Beat, Z107.9, 95.5 KPHT, AM 590 KCSJ, and AM 1350 KCCY with additional support from KILQ 94.3, 103.9 RXP, The Gazette and the City of Colorado Springs.

Donations taken via telephone during the concert courtesy of **CHEFS**
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Attendees will have the opportunity to make monetary donations to the **Waldo Canyon Fire Victim Assistance Fund** at the event and Care and Share Food Bank donations will be accepted. 100% of the funds raised at the concert and broadcast telethon will go directly to the Waldo Canyon Fire relief efforts.



Brienne Boortz

A view in Mountain Shadows. As Harry Houdini said, 'Fire has always been and, seemingly, will always remain, the most terrible of the elements.'



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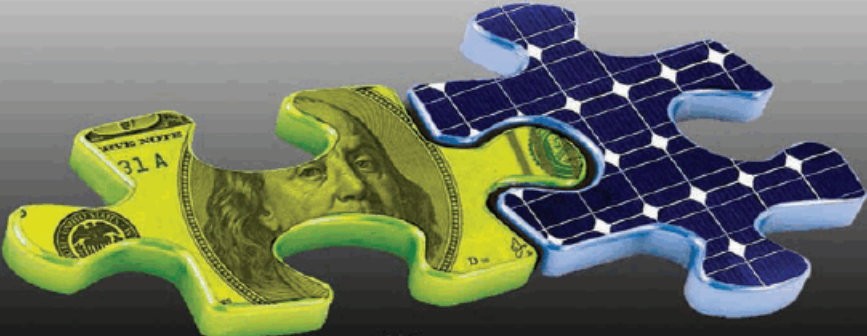
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Letters



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If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Lamborn's hypocrisy

I was shocked to see our “worthy” U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn not only hitching a ride on Air Force One, but taking advantage of the photo ops with President Obama. Isn't this the same guy who used “Obama” and “tar baby” in the same sentence? Isn't this the same guy who has voted against every jobs bill, health bill, back-to-work bill, infrastructure bill, etc., that President Obama has put before Congress?

This is a guy who shows complete disrespect for the office of the U.S. president for reasons that seem purely partisan with a sprinkle of good old racism.

anti-tax Lamborn back inside the Beltway with him to fight on desperately trying to get Obama fired. Who says life is not ironic?

One last thing. We all turn now to recovery and rebuilding. Think of the massive needs for construction laborers, roofers, landscapers, road repair crews, and all the working and union people who will be sorely needed. Many of these workers are immigrants, legal and illegal, and one sees them working hard in 100-degree heat. Their wages should be tripled.

Many are “illegal” folks, working often under bosses who treat them like dirt because they can. They work in

The beauty survives

Thank you for your coverage of the Waldo Canyon Fire near Colorado Springs. All eyes are on our local websites looking for information.

As a resident of Manitou Springs, a few miles from where the fire started, it is important to note that while this is a horrible tragedy, the beauty of the area is still here.

Pikes Peak did not burn, Garden of the Gods is unscathed, the Cog Railway is open, Manitou Springs is alive and well, most of the fire is on National Forest land that is only accessible by dirt roads and trails, and the skies around us are blue and smoke-free.

We have lost some wonderful hiking trails and wilderness, but Colorado Springs and surrounding areas are still open, still beautiful, and still very much alive.

While reporting this fire is a service to the community, not reporting the beauty that still exists as well is doing a disservice to our community and all of Colorado.

— *L'Aura Montgomery Williams*
Manitou Springs

Fire's missing piece

The level of community compassion, support and inter-agency cooperation witnessed during the Waldo Canyon Fire describes all that is good with our community.

One glaring exception, which should concern us all, is that all El Paso County officials and commissioners were excluded from President Obama during his tour of the impacted areas. This tragic fire was described as a county event from the beginning, and as the city is an integral part of the county, commissioners do in fact serve the city.

Several years ago, the EDC/Project 6035 analysis of weak and strong points for our community indicated “polarizing ideological differences in the political arena” as a factor inhibiting economic development in the region.

For a region so heavily dependent upon federal funds, military and defense spending, what can be more “polarizing” than county commissioners who have a long history of making harsh and vitriolic comments targeted at their associates at the city level, state and federal officials, and particularly at our president.

Leaders who planned the presidential tour felt the need to exclude county officials. I think it is safe to say that the verbal attacks from Commissioners Clark and Lathen were the direct cause for them being kept away from our president at a time when their

By almost every measure, Monday was a good day around here. Firefighters upped containment of the Waldo Canyon Fire to 70 percent. More evacuees were allowed to return home. And Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado announced that since June 23, people had donated an incredible 1 million pounds of food.

But Monday night, Janet Karnes, executive director of the Suicide Prevention Partnership of the Pikes Peak Region, sent out the following message:

“If you or someone you know are demonstrating signs of depression — feeling of hopelessness or helplessness, loss of appetite, overwhelming sadness, uncontrollable crying, sleeping too much or too little, or other symptoms — please contact the local suicide prevention partnership hotline at 719-596-5433, which will connect you to Metro Crisis Services. Professional counselors are only a phone call away at no cost.”

Such is life in this region right now. Every push meets a pull; every inspiring story gets countered by a devastating one. One breath tastes sweet, and then the wind changes, and you're inhaling smoke again.

These are incredibly trying times, with others ahead. Think of all the ups and downs we've felt since the tragedy of last Tuesday, and it's clear that we'd be wise to take heed of Karnes' warning.

Thanks to the endless work of our firefighters and support personnel, we may be able to peel our eyes away from the mountains pretty soon. But hopefully we can pledge to keep watching each other.

— *Kirk Woundy*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'I hope you packed your bags.'

— *4th Judicial District Attorney Dan May, delivering a terse press-conference message Monday to anyone who burglarized or vandalized homes in the burn area.*

Lamborn shames this community, and does little to represent his constituency as he should. But one thing he does excel at is being a hypocrite of the first degree.

Who's your daddy now, Doug?

— *Ron McComb*
Currently evacuated

Unforgettable week

What a week of astonishing surprises! First, the heat and fires and destruction, a horrifying “act of god,” as the insurance companies call it. (And I fervently hope everyone has a ton of insurance.) Then our own Congressman Lamborn riding in Air Force One with the previously hated President Obama, the very same president whom Lamborn publicly insulted by boycotting the State of the Union.

Lamborn was “kissing up” so gushingly that his nose had a sudden and suspicious new suntan in news photos when he got off the plane. It seemed to me that one of the most hazardous places to be this week was getting between Lamborn and news cameras. Other local politicians strained to get into the act, as is their wont.

Then the previously hated federal tax dollars had to be called in to save the day, with federal personnel, military slurry-drop bombers, and all the rest.

Some tax-haters insisted that Obama's visit would distract local firefighting efforts and take precious tax dollars from disaster efforts. But Obama soothed everyone, and took

fear of deportation. Lamborn and his political allies will keep trying energetically to get them out of here.

Yes, a week of surprises.

— *Larimore Nicholl*
Colorado Springs

Shared goodwill

Like many people in the Pikes Peak region, I am very grateful to all of the firemen, police and other governmental employees that have done such an incredible job in saving our lives, our property and, indeed, our community from the devastation of the Waldo Canyon Fire.

I was also heartened when President Obama came to pledge support for our effort and to tell us that we can depend on the federal government for support.

When times turn hard, whether it's an act of nature, illness or loss of livelihood, it's the safety net that keeps many of us afloat, surviving so that when times get better we will have a fighting chance.

I begrudge the people of Colorado Springs nothing in their moment of need.

And when this is all behind us and those same people hear of others who are going through bad times, I hope they will also feel compassion for others and gratitude for their own good fortune, to be generous in their attitudes toward others in their time of need.

— *Philip Lightstone*
Manitou Springs

For a list of civic and volunteer opportunities related to the Waldo Canyon Fire, see 'Seven ways to give' on p. 25, or Listings starting on p. 39.

end up saving a family member's life or possibly even preventing expensive problems later?

Encouraging families to cover their kids until they're 26 years old is outrageous and might make our sons and daughters start to think about getting early checkups or having preventative exams. Worse yet, our children might change their diet, exercise, or lose weight.

This coverage is especially problematic for parents of children between 18 and 26 because much of this more-affordable insurance protection we can now buy for our children could be wasted during our daughters' child-bearing years and that might lead to all kinds of healthy complications!

But easily the worst part of the Affordable Care Act is the "cracking down on waste and fraud in Medicare." That really sucks!

Americans are doing very well already, thank you very much, and we know we can just drop by the emergency room if we aren't feeling well. We certainly understand that it would have been wrong to expect our insurance companies to cover the incredibly radical expectations that ObamaCare now forces upon us.

We already spend more per capita on medical care than any of our competitors and look at all the good it's doing. We can thank our insurance companies for much of this. Besides, how are we going to compete with the

rest of the developed world if we waste our money on such trivia?

— Jonathan H. Reilly
Colorado Springs

Robot takeover

No jobs available? Of course not, because our brilliant technology has replaced able-bodied willing workers with robots and machines for shortcuts.

Don't you just love the phone system directing you to a menu to possibly speak to a real English-speaking person after a 30-minute hold or more? Aliens come and rescue the species of planet Earth.

— Janet Skokan
Manitou Springs

Mitt the accuser

For the tenth time this week Mitt Romney is accusing President Obama of something. It has allowed him to navigate another week without taking a stand on anything. If I was a Republican, which I am not, I would hide my face when the presumptive Republican presidential candidate speaks.

In a recent speech President Obama spent 54 minutes clearly delineating his economic strategy as compared to Romney's. In his presentation he continually quoted independent economists who have reviewed Mr. Romney's 50-plus point economic plan and stated that, if fully implemented,

it would send our economy back into recession. The result would be the loss of more jobs and would increase, not decrease, our national debt. I have checked the sources he mentioned as well as a plethora of other economists and he was correct in his statements.

There are four months left to the election, but I don't know if I can even read another statement made by Mr. Romney. I would urge the Republicans in our community to write or call Mr. Romney's campaign and ask him to quit whining and start putting together a reasonable argument for why he should be president. President Obama wants to stand on his economic vision for the next four years. I wonder if Mr. Romney is willing to do the same.

— Merl Wallace
Colorado Springs

Back to California

OK, Mr. Wade, let's follow California (Following California," Letters, June 13). In September 2008, Republican Gov. Schwarzenegger signs the budget, three months late. December 2008, he announces additional furloughs and layoffs for state employees. February 2009, State Controller John Chiang delays \$3.5 billion in state payments for 30 days. By summer 2009, the state's unemployment rate is 12 percent and the poverty rate in L.A. is 20 percent.

Like everywhere else, California suffered from the housing meltdown and the banking crisis. Brought on, I might add, by the economic disaster known as the George W. Bush presidency, where wars were funded with tax cuts and deregulation allowed Wall Street criminals to fleece the country.

Projections for California are positive, but recovering jobs lost from 2007 to 2009 is not expected until 2016. Current Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed budgets that slash \$8.3 billion from spending on employees, social programs and prisons, but his request for more taxes has been met with the same Republican roadblock that President Obama has had to deal with.

Republicans continue to insist that the people who are suffering the most take on the burden of paying for the crisis. They refuse to raise taxes on people

whose net wealth and annual income has soared while the rest of us have seen only stagnation or lower wages. The only way this economy is going to turn around is if the consumers start to spend again. The only way that happens is if money stays in the pockets of the middle class. Protecting millionaires because they are the supposed "job creators" is simply a smokescreen Republicans are using to keep the campaign contributions coming.

Mr. Wade, the people aren't asking for freebies, they are asking for jobs. The only politicians out there who bear the responsibility for delaying new job growth are your Republican buddies.

— Michael Augenstein
Colorado Springs

Their day in court

The Supreme Court chose to let the biggest corporation in the world off the hook for gender discrimination a year ago in the case against Wal-Mart that prevented the 1.6 million women of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club from taking on America's largest private employer in what would have been the largest class-action civil rights lawsuit in history.

Leading up to that decision:

1998: Lilly Ledbetter sued her former employer Goodyear Tire & Rubber after discovering that 15 of her male co-workers made \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month more than she — even though they did the same work and started at the same salary in 1979. The Supreme Court ruled against her because the statute of limitations had run out. She did not even find out about the discrimination for years, due to her company's salary confidentiality policies.

2009: The Lilly Ledbetter Act made it illegal for employers to retaliate against employees who disclose their salary.

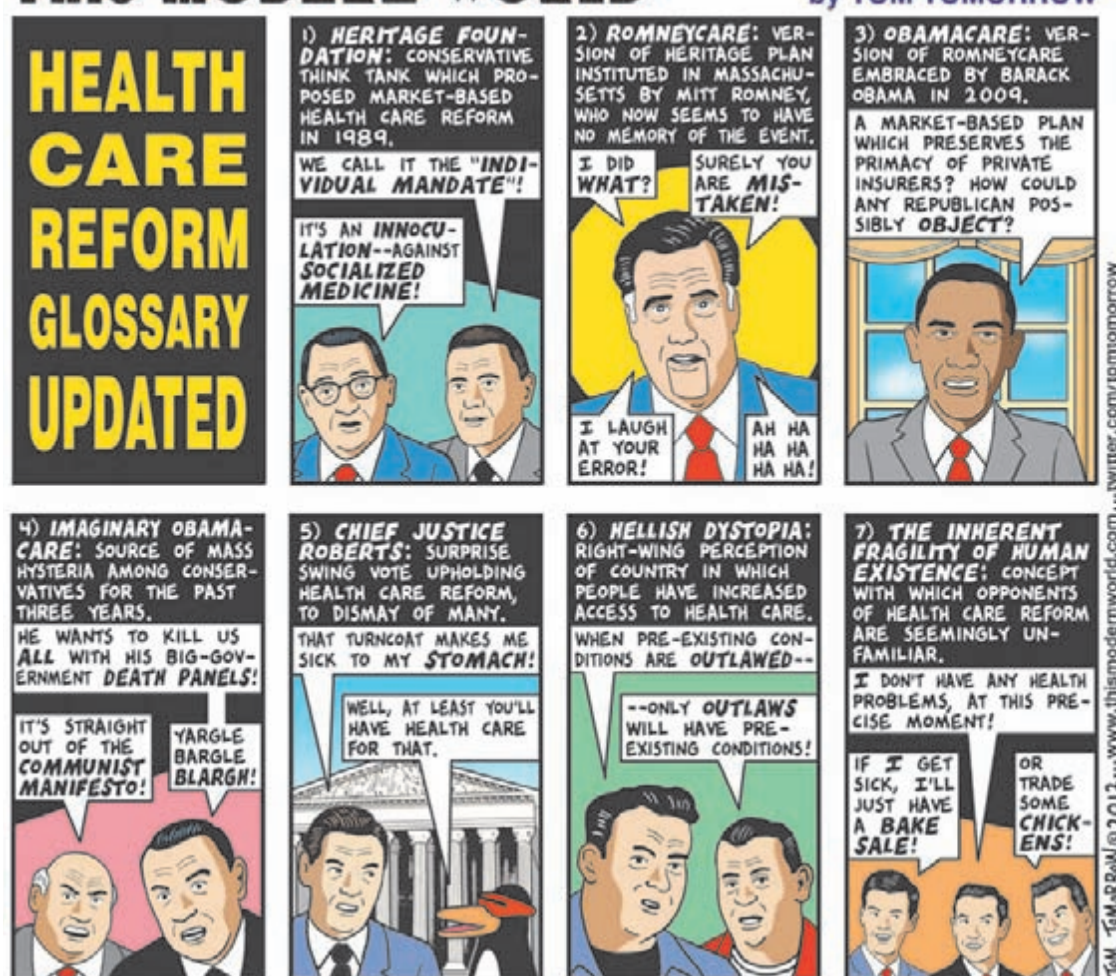
2000-2011: Betty Dukes sued Wal-Mart in a class action suit for pay discrimination that sought \$1.5 billion on behalf of up to 1.6 million female workers. The Supreme Court refused to grant class action.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act (EEOA) would undo much of the damage done to women's and workers' rights by the Court's decision in Wal-Mart v. Dukes. It would help ordinary Americans stand together to challenge company-wide discriminatory employment practices. If this issue is important to you and your family, let your Congressional representatives know — soon!

— Dr. Cara E. Koch
Public Policy Director
AAUW, Colorado Springs Branch

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by TOM TOMORROW



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CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Tough fire questions will come

Who's the boss? In Colorado Springs, the answer to that question is almost always conditional. It depends upon who has jurisdiction, who has statutory power, and who has to be consulted. Even if a dozen pols agree on a course of action, there's no assurance that anything will get done.

But during the dramatic arc of the Waldo Canyon Fire, jurisdictional questions became irrelevant. As soon as a national incident management team arrived, decision-making was informally vested in a single "unified command." This quasi-military organization seized control of northwest Colorado Springs, rapidly deployed assets from across the country, and enlisted more than 1,200 men and women to fight a hugely imposing opponent.

'I've never seen a fire do that.'

No elected body formally surrendered jurisdiction; no judge ratified the seizure. No voices protested the broad denial of civil rights when 32,000 people were barred from their homes, and no politicians took power from the outsiders.

Twice daily, the men and women in charge gave their briefings. Tuesday morning, hours before the fire jumped containment lines, raced up ridges and metamorphosed into a deadly firestorm, our bosses sang the virtues of unified command. This command and control system, merging local, regional and federal firefighting/public safety resources, evolved from the grim experience of the past few decades in the arid West.

Did it work? Was communication actually quick and effective between all the players, including the federal incident management team, city and El Paso County administrative staff and public safety departments, the U.S. Forest Service, the mayor's office and Colorado Springs Utilities? Is that why, though we lost nearly 350 homes to an uncontrollable firestorm, only two people perished? Or was the situation on the ground as confused and chaotic as it seemed to be from a distance?

Was incident commander **Rich Harvey** as tactically brilliant as **Hannibal** at Cannae, or **Montgomery** at El Alamein? Or was he, like so many generals, just lucky?

For a little context, consider the past. On Oct. 19, 1991, a grass fire broke out in the hills above Oakland, Calif. Firefighters arrived, extinguished the blaze and left. But they hadn't finished the job — next morning, the fire reignited. Driven by searing temperatures and winds gusting to 65 mph, fire swept through the desiccated trees, shrubs and grass along the wildland-urban interface to menace the upscale neighborhoods of Berkeley Hills.

Firefighting resources from the entire Bay Area deployed, to no avail. Blocked streets, equipment incompatibility, communication difficulties and power failures handicapped firefighters, as did the lack of a coherent strategy. Unchecked, the blaze grew into a firestorm, generating its own winds, hurling flaming embers before the fire front, igniting everything in its path. In all, 3,354 single-family homes were destroyed, as well as 437 apartment or condominium units. Twenty-five people died.

Three years later on July 7, 1994, 14 members of a Colorado wildland fire suppression team died in another firestorm, this one at Storm King Mountain near Glenwood Springs. A multi-agency accident investigation team ascribed the deaths to a lethal combination of weather (wind, low humidity, high temperature), overconfidence by incident managers, and lack of critical information to develop appropriate strategy.

The report noted: "Maximum rates of spread of 18 mph and flames as high as 200-300 feet made escape by firefighters extremely difficult."

Does that sound familiar? It should — that's what we saw on that terrible Tuesday as Mountain Shadows exploded into flame.

Harvey was surprised by the fire's twists and turns.

"I've never seen a fire do that," he said Wednesday morning. "You can usually predict a fire's direction, but this one made three major runs in three cardinal directions in a few hours."

It may be that the massive resources gave firefighters the tools they needed to save lives and minimize property damage. That's how things look today — but soon the second-guessing will begin. It's too early to draw many conclusions. We can expect the Forest Service and other agencies to commission an independent investigation, which should answer some questions.

Mayor **Steve Bach**, **Rich Harvey**, Sheriff **Terry Maketa**, Police Chief **Pete Carey**, Fire Chief **Rich Brown**, Forest Service supervisor **Jerri Marr** — good, lucky or both?

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Tumultuous times

The Waldo Canyon Fire has affected us all. We've shared a community-wide anxiety — concerned for our neighbors, family and friends, our wildlife and forests, and the safety of the emergency personnel who rushed in to help.

Idette Armstead from the *north side* is a *counselor*



How has the Waldo Canyon Fire affected you? It's given me a lot of anxiety. I just moved here a couple of months ago from Mississippi, and I have no family here. My daughter was going to join me, but we had to hold off on that because of the fire. I wasn't under evacuation, but I feel so bad for the people who've lost their homes.

Have you ever lived in a community that's gone through something similar? In Mississippi, we'd get rain and wind from the aftermath of hurricanes in surrounding states, but no direct hurricanes, and no wildfires.

How do you think the local response has been? It's been a relief for me to know how much help came together. The briefings on the local news were wonderful. I didn't know anything about wildfires, so it's really been educational.

Robert Clark from the *Patty Jewett area* is a *restaurant manager*



Have you been personally affected by the fire? Yes, the restaurant got busier, and we had a friend from the Holland Park neighborhood staying with us.

Have you ever lived in a community that's gone through a crisis like this? Yes, I lived near Yellowstone National Park during the fires in 1988. Even though I lived about 60 miles away, the smoke was so

thick you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I remember feeling a lot of stress.

What can we learn from this experience going forward? Maybe we should have stricter rules and fire restrictions, and encourage less debris around houses.

Lindsey Williams from the *south side* works in *health care*



Has the fire personally affected you? Very much. It's on the news 24/7 and my stress level has been higher than normal. A lot of people I work with were evacuees, and some lost their homes. There's just so much stress.

Have you ever been in a similar situation? I lived in Florida for about 10 years, and I've seen hurricanes, tornadoes and fires, but I've never been scared like this. The fire moved so fast, and with the wind it was uncontrollable.

What can our community learn from this? Don't take things for granted. Tomorrow is never promised. The cops, the firefighters, the EMTs work until they're bone-tired, and then they get up and work some more. They do this every day, not just during a disaster. And it's not for the money, because they sure don't get paid enough for what they do.

— Kendall Kullman

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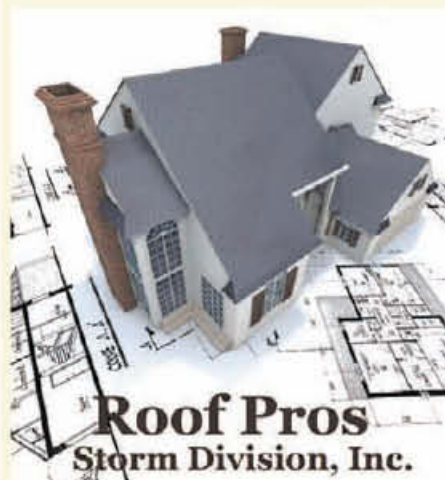
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LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Five to four: Montana loses

As a Montana newspaper editorial succinctly put it: "The greatest living issue confronting us today is whether the corporations shall control the people or the people shall control the corporations."

That was written in 1906, as Montanans were rising up against out-of-state mining corporations known as the "copper kings."

Those corporate powers were exploiting Montana's workforce, extracting its public resources, and routinely extending bribes to control its state government.

In 1912, however, the people of Montana passed the Corrupt Practices Act, a citizens initiative that outlawed direct corporate expenditures for candidates in elections for state office.

The law broke the copper kings' legislative chokehold, and a century later it was still working to put people power over money politics.

Even today, the average cost of state senate races in Montana stands at only \$17,000 — allowing candidates to spend more time talking to everyday constituents, and that produces one of America's highest rates of voter turnout.

How positive — a model of democracy in action!

Until an out-of-state corporate front group rode in like copper kings to sue the state.

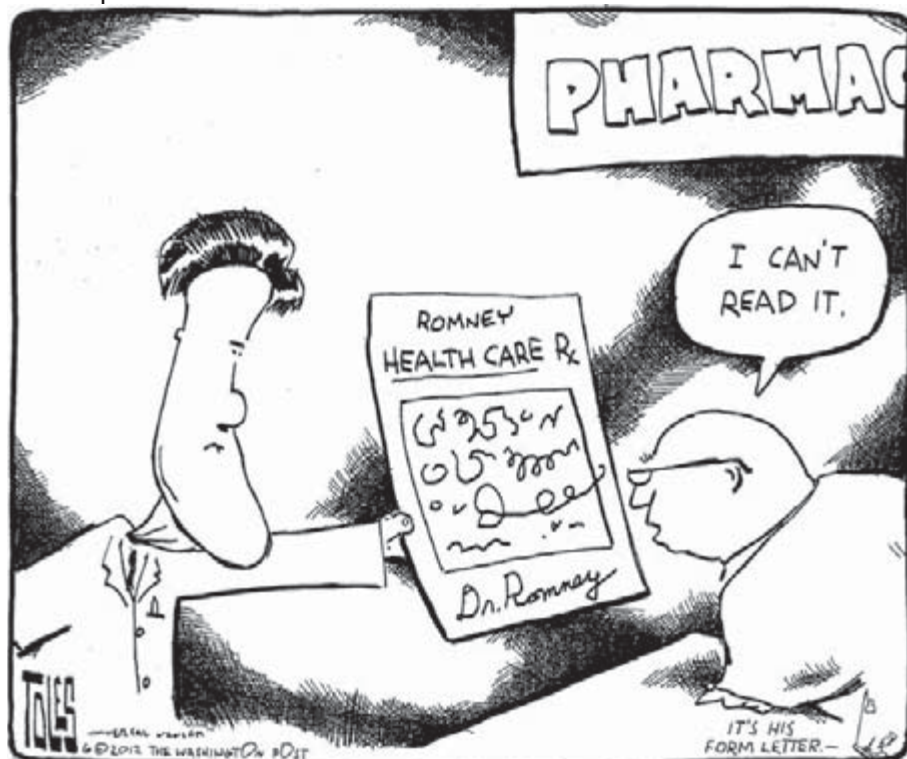
With a pack of high-dollar lawyers and a bundle of corporate funding, the group wailed that Montana's anti-corruption law discriminates against poor corporations, denying them their First Amendment "right" to have the biggest voice in government that money can buy.

And now, the five corporate hacks controlling the Supreme Court have ratified the ridiculous argument of the front group, imperiously shoving Montana's 100-year-old law into the ditch, and re-imposing the rule of special-interest money over the people's will.

To stop this court's coup against our democracy, We the People must pass a constitutional amendment overturning these decisions.

To help, go to: United4ThePeople.org.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.



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Between the Lines

By Ralph Routon

Primary still deserves analysis

For months, anyone with much awareness in area politics had been salivating over the 2012 primary election — mainly because there was uncertainty inside the Republican ranks.

This time incumbents and familiar veterans weren't immune from internal GOP opposition, from U.S. Rep. **Doug Lamborn** to several state legislators and two county commissioners.

Yet even before the west end of El Paso County ignited and the Waldo Canyon Fire stole the show in the primary's final hours, the anticipated drama never really materialized. The lesser-known challengers, despite being given every opportunity, didn't have the substance or staying power.

Then the blaze in the mountains stifled any late voter interest. In the end, of course, we didn't even know the final election outcomes on that fateful Tuesday night (see "Election, interrupted," right).

Fortunately, all the races here were decided from the single release of early election night results. Lamborn disposed of **Robert Blaha**, while on the state level, House Majority Leader **Amy Stephens** thumped Rep. **Marsha Loooper**, and **Owen Hill** easily defeated state Rep. **Larry Liston** for a Senate seat. Meanwhile, Commissioners **Sallie Clark** and **Dennis Hisey** breezed to victory.

Most margins were in the 60-40 range, wider than anticipated. And once all the ballots were tabulated, the county turnout actually was better than four years ago, up from about 51,000 in the congressional primary of 2008 (when Lamborn defeated **Jeff Crank** and **Bentley Rayburn**) to 61,112 this time.

So, with more of the fire apparently coming under control, let's quickly analyze the primary election, then focus on the Lamborn-Blaha race.

First, the GOP establishment has to feel relieved, with Stephens beating Loooper and Clark conquering **Karen Magistrelli's** challenge. (She faces another, from Democrat **John Morris**, in November.) The size of Liston's loss was a slight surprise, and it's true that Liston (with his eight years in the House) could have been far more effective in the Senate than Hill probably will ever be. But there simply was no voter revolt here.

Second, the improved turnout clearly indicates the mail-ballot-only setup brought a positive influence to the primary, not negative as some feared. Given that the fire deterred many from voting in the final days, you have to wonder what the turnout would've been without such a huge late distraction. After seeing widespread apathy in other states' primaries, we can say that problem doesn't exist here.

Third, we should note the Pueblo district attorney race, with Pueblo County Commissioner **Jeff Chostner** unseating

incumbent DA **Bill Thiebaut** by roughly a 53-47 margin. That should bode well for Pueblo being more cooperative in

pushing the Southern Delivery System forward, though Thiebaut has six more months in office to cause disruptions (and will probably try to do just that).

As for Lamborn-Blaha, despite much evidence of dissatisfaction with Lamborn, not enough GOP voters saw Blaha as a capable alternative. Simply being the anti-Lamborn with a lot of money wasn't enough. Blaha turned off gun supporters in the one public forum he had with Lamborn, and never seemed to recover.

Also lost in those results was the apathy in the 5th Congressional District's other five counties — Teller, Fremont, Park, Chaffee and Lake — with only 6,011 votes in all of them combined (4,305 for Lamborn, 1,706 for Blaha).

Looking ahead to November, merely on the strength of his margin over Blaha (62-38 percent), Lamborn is favored at the start against his next foe, independent **Dave Anderson**. But that race still looks intriguing, because Anderson will come after Lamborn with a different strategy.

Besides appealing to those who are tired of Lamborn, Anderson plans to offer a much more refreshing alternative. He has pledged not to be negative, instead offering plenty of knowledge and ideas related to the economy, business and job creation. Perhaps the toughest part for Anderson will be trying to beat Lamborn in El Paso County during a presidential election year, but we've heard enough negative sentiment toward Lamborn (even during the fire), that voters still might embrace an alternative with an upbeat outlook and an "I" beside his name.

We'll have four more months to watch that.

Otherwise, this primary is already forgotten.

— routon@csindy.com

Election, interrupted

County Clerk Wayne Williams says that on the Election Day of June 26, it was pretty clear an evacuation of his vote-counting site was coming.

"Our election judges were working in masks," he says.

All around the Citizens Service Center on Garden of the Gods Road, smoke from the fire was becoming unbearable. At 4 p.m. that day the wind changed, and by 7 the word came: Everyone had 10 minutes to get out of the building.

The ensuing announcement — all vote-counting would be halted, with only preliminary numbers released — mercifully ended an eerie evening at primary-night parties around El Paso County. Many anxious and exhausted campaign volunteers and friends of candidates had sat silent as they

watched homes burn on TV. County Commissioner and candidate Sallie Clark, who represents much of the fire area, didn't show up for her own party.

The next day, Williams and his staff drove across the evacuation line to collect the remaining uncounted ballots. Surprises were pretty much out of the question; in nearly every local race, from commissioner up to the U.S. House, hefty 20-point margins separated the candidates. Still, the election wouldn't be final until every ballot, sitting in a locked room under video surveillance, was transported to the southeast clerk's office and counted.

When the group walked back into the Citizens Service Center, stale smoke and air conditioning poured out, stinging eyes and halting breaths.

— Chet Hardin



Ballots had to be moved for final counting.

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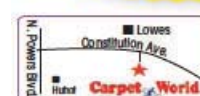
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WALDO CANYON FIRE

Inside the nightmare

Dispatches from firefighters and officials create a haunting account of how last Tuesday happened

By Pam Zubeck

It happened so fast. In a matter of hours on Tuesday, June 26, the Mountain Shadows subdivision went from bucolic suburb to war zone, engulfed by the vengeful Waldo Canyon Fire.

In one day, the historic wildfire grew thousands of acres after a column of heated smoke and ash, visible for miles in every direction, collapsed on the city's northwest side.

By now, we all know what it wrought. Two people died in the fire, at a house in North Mountain Shadows. At least 346 homes were destroyed and

hundreds more were damaged. Even if the blaze — 17,920 acres and 70 percent contained as of press time — didn't burn another structure, losses could top \$170 million for the homes alone, based on an estimate using property values from the El Paso County assessor. (Fighting the fire has cost another \$12.3 million.)

The tolls could have been much higher but for the heroics of hundreds of firefighters who stood their ground against the blaze, even using garden hoses at times, and aided by several police officers who took it on without protective gear.

Because of their efforts, upward of 75 percent of the homes in Mountain Shadows were saved. Clearly, a lot went right in the city's fire response, which included evacuating Mountain Shadows' southern portion the day the fire broke out.

But their neighbors north of Chuckwagon Road, in the other half of Mountain Shadows, weren't told to evacuate until late Tuesday afternoon. That was more than five hours after press releases noted "changes in fire behavior," and more than three hours after the city called the fire "aggressive" but urged residents only to "consider evacuation planning."

Though Mayor Steve Bach reportedly ordered people to evacuate midway through the 4 p.m. press briefing, the city didn't send a press release until 5:15. By then, the fire had started to barrel into their neighborhoods, ready to claim entire blocks of property and 40 percent of all homes that would be destroyed that night.

And yet a top-ranking city fire official has said he's sure the evacuation orders for North Mountain Shadows and Peregrine were "spot on."

The first days

Scott Campbell, the county's deputy fire marshal with 25 years' wildland firefighting experience, got the call between

11 a.m. and noon on Saturday, June 23, about a fire in Waldo Canyon.

"When I came down the road and saw the column and saw it was 35 to 40 acres," Campbell says in an interview, "with that wind, we just knew it was going big."

Campbell says he made some aircraft orders into dispatch from his truck, and Pike National Forest fire management officer Eric Zanutto made some more.

Colorado Springs Utilities' wildland firefighting team, called at 12:30, headed to the ridge above Cedar Heights to protect a tower Utilities uses, says fire-

fighter Sandi Yukman.

Forestry officials started sweeping campers out of campgrounds and preparing for evacuations of Cascade, Green Mountain Falls and Crystola. Most of a 35-volunteer county wildland team and an AmeriCorps team from the National Interagency Fire Center went to the fire's west side to create a "speed bump" between it and Cascade, says Campbell, who over that weekend served as deputy incident commander under Zanutto.

Meanwhile, Campbell's team also coordinated with Colorado Springs Fire Department, which worked above the 178-home Cedar Heights area, as well as smaller departments from the Ute Pass area. Aircraft began dropping retardant, and helicopters emptied water buckets on the fire, Campbell says.

By 5:45 p.m. Saturday, mandatory evacuations had been issued for Cedar Heights and Mountain Shadows south of Chuckwagon, as well as towns along Ute Pass. Manitou Springs would follow early Sunday morning. U.S. Highway 24 was closed between Cave of the Winds and Crystola hours later.

Campbell says firefighters feared the fire would throw embers up to a half-mile from treetops. "On Sunday when it was really growing," he says, "it was like a Hiroshima bomb going off every 10 minutes."

The size of the fire — 3,446 acres by the time Zanutto and Campbell relinquished control to a "Type 1" team led by Rich Harvey on Monday morning — and its power mandated such a breakneck pace of assignments and evacuations.

"We have a saying," Campbell says. "We call it the Haul Chart: In 1- to 3-foot flames, we haul tools. Three to 5 feet, we haul equipment and water. And above 7 feet, we haul ass. The only thing to do with 100-foot flame lengths is get out of the way."

The buildup

By 10 p.m. Monday, the fire had spread to 4,500 acres, and 600 fire personnel were at work, according to incident update reports. Aircraft were dropping retardant along Rampart Range Road and the fire's east flank.

Yukman's 14-member wildland team worked into the wee hours of the night. They cut a line above Cedar Heights — which she says accounts for the fire's first 5 percent containment figure — and then moved over to the Queens Canyon area to make a barrier to the city's water tanks above Glen Eyrie.

Her team returned at 9 a.m. Tuesday, to the north flank. Above them, a cloud was building. "Smoke billows up from the fire and creates a very high cloud column," Yukman explains.

Campbell saw it too, from the opposite side of the fire, where he was giving county commissioners a look at the operation.

"I was showing them how the column builds and all the mass that's in it," he says. "If it keeps going, it could be to the

point the collapse would happen. When I got back to the ICP [incident command post on the west side of the city], the head of the column was out over town."

The mass had all the earmarks of a pyrocumulus cloud, he says, which forms from smoke, moisture from burning vegetation, and particulates from the fire. "There's tens, perhaps hundreds, of millions of cubic yards of mass up in the sky held up there by heat," he says. "Topography directs where that wind goes. If you're in a steep canyon, the speed is a lot higher and it pushes in all directions."

Despite red-flag weather conditions, including an all-time historic high temperature of 101 degrees, the city issued a statement at 10:52 a.m., saying Mountain Shadows evacuees could return to their homes for a half-hour. Forty minutes later, the city canceled the return in another release, stating, "Due to the current changes in fire behavior, no return visits to Cedar Heights OR Mountain Shadows are allowed at this time."

At 1:40 p.m., the city issued a pre-evac-



The concerns of the first few days crystallized in a huge cloud column.



Sandi Yukman's wildland firefighters quickly looked at each house and asked themselves if they could save it: 'If you can't, you go to the next one.'

uation notice to North Mountain Shadows and Peregrine north of Chuckwagon Road. "Waldo Canyon Fire behavior continues to change and be aggressive," the city stated, adding that residents in North Mountain Shadows and further north "should consider evacuation planning." But the city also noted, "There is no need to panic as this is not a mandatory or voluntary evacuation at this time..."

That afternoon, the column, or "header," as firefighters call it, continued to build. Springs Fire Battalion Chief Jim Schanel watched it. "I knew what was happening," he says. "I've never seen fire behavior so extreme and unpredictable."

Greg Heule, public information officer for the incident and a former Springs firefighter, says the conditions aligned for a worst-case scenario: dry fuels, high and erratic winds, and rough terrain. "Everybody knew it was going to be a dangerous day," he says.

When media gathered at Coronado High School on West Fillmore Street at 4 p.m. for a news briefing, the pillar towered behind officials.

At 4:20 p.m., wildland engine boss Steve Martyniak and his crew from Station 9 on Garden of the Gods Road were dispatched to the top of North Mountain Shadows, where fire was clearly coming over the ridgeline. As they drove down Garden of the Gods Road toward the fire, sirens blaring and red lights flashing, they saw residents speeding toward their homes and away from them. When they arrived, the column fell and pushed the fire over the top of the ridge onto homes. Martyniak says one of his crew heard a pilot on the radio who was dropping retardant say, "Get outta there."

Yukman saw the cloud begin to fall at about 4:30 p.m. "I knew [the time], because they had been calling out the weather every hour, and we had just done the 16:00," she says. Yukman adds, "It came down on all sides of the fire line. It hit like a watermelon and exploded."

In her seven years of firefighting, Yukman's never seen something like what she saw that day. "My thoughts were, 'This is very bad for the city,'" she says.

The cloud's plunge sent firefighters scrambling to protected positions blocks from the fireline. It startled officials at the media briefing, bringing Bach to the micro-

phone. But not until 5:15 did the city formally issue a mandatory evacuation order for North Mountain Shadows and Peregrine residents, giving them 30 minutes to return home, gather valuables and leave.

In that press release, the city said, "Residents will be notified by reverse 911 calls and by uniformed police officers advising them of the mandatory evacuation." The Police Department refuses to say whether the two people who died in the home on Rossmere Street received either of those notices before fire struck.

The disaster

After getting their bearings, Campbell and his firefighters, and Yukman and her crew headed for Mountain Shadows, where fire poured down the ridge. Dozens of Springs firefighters were on hand, as well as dozens from neighboring departments under the command of Schanel.

"Everybody assisted," Campbell says. "Forest Service green engines. Colorado Springs red engines. Cooperators from outlying areas in there. We were setting up our groups. We're yelling at each other trying to get a toehold somewhere so we can make a stand to prevent it from pushing further in, because the wind was howling."

When he drove in, he had to keep his head behind the vehicle panel, because the window glass was so hot from the 30 to 40 houses "fully involved." Firefighters searched for a place to make a stand, he says, and police officers jumped in.

"We had policemen in there in their duty uniforms who were helping us, and they wouldn't leave," he says. "They said, 'We have to do something.'"

"We had places where our fire guys were going in with 1-inch fire line [garden hoses], between houses that are 10 feet apart and this one's on fire and this one's not, trying to spray the houses down. Guys pulled the decks off, knocked down the fire on the outside of the windows, and the guys jumped in the house with a garden hose. If the fence was on fire, we'd knock it down. We were knocking stuff down, cutting trees out of the way, dragging them into the street."

"There was a pool in one place, the guys had five-gallon buckets and were throwing it on stuff. Whatever you can do. Seven or eight houses burned right up to the road. The engines are standing

there. They held it there."

Crews worked through the night with "many, many" homes fully engulfed, according to Yukman. "We saw only the outline of the homes because of the flames. You ask yourself, 'Can you make a difference?' If you can't, you go to the next one."

Yukman found it hard to breathe and see; she kept track of her crew by watching for their head lamps.

"There was just a lot of fire and embers floating around that were hot. It looked like a bomb exploded. It was like a war was going on, because of [exploding] propane tanks," she says. Natural gas in pipelines burned blue, and walls and chimneys crashed to the ground next to them.

"As far as we could see, everything was on fire," she says. "We all stood there for a minute and said, 'I can't believe this is happening. How are we ever going to get these fires out?'"

Martyniak, who spent 54 hours on the fireline from Tuesday through Thursday, says that by late Tuesday night, all off-duty Springs firefighters were called to work the fire or backfill stations across the city. When it was time for shift change, about 1:30 a.m., Yukman says 200 firefighters were waiting to go in. And through the morning, the firefighting continued.

Lt. Mike Skeldum's Fountain Fire Department crew worked mostly on Rossmere Street and Wilson Road. In one case, his team saw a fireball land on the roof of an untouched house. They raced inside the house and put out the fire.

According to the city's list of destroyed homes, only 17 of the 87 houses on Wilson were a total loss, as were only nine of the 79 homes on Rossmere. But they were the ones that touched Skeldum.

"Bicycles, basketball hoops, project cars, cars in garages were just burnt metal," he says. "On the majority of them, the mail boxes were still up. There were a couple of houses the door was still intact but there was nothing behind it. A lot of people had turned sprinklers on and put them on porches or roofs. All that will be burned into my mind forever."

The days after

For Campbell, the signs were clear that city subdivisions below the ridgelines were imperiled Tuesday afternoon. "Any fire that builds those big puffy clouds

over the top, any time you put that much mass up in the air, gravity is on duty 24/7, so it's always something to watch," he says. "But there's nothing you can do about it but get out of the way."

That decision — of when to evacuate and how — is made by the authority of each local jurisdiction and is based on information provided by the incident commander and others. In press conferences, Harvey has urged decision-makers to err on the side of caution.

El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa says he evacuated Ute Pass on the county side of the fire on that first Saturday to assure citizens' safety. Manitou's mayor, Marc Snyder, and fire chief made their evac call early Sunday morning.

"I had full decision [sic] authority on all county evacs," Maketa says in an e-mail, "and at the time they were directed I simply notified the IC and carried our evac plan."

Tim Johnson, public information officer with the federal incident management team, says inside city limits, "ultimately, it's the mayor" who makes an evacuation call.

Cindy Aubrey, Bach's communications director, says in a text message to the *Indy* that the city had issued an evacuation alert and there were voluntary evacs in place, adding, "Both the city and the team did all we could to ensure the safety of the citizens."

Asked Friday afternoon if city officials are happy with how the evacuations of North Mountain Shadows and Peregrine were handled, whether they were done properly and in a timely way, Springs Deputy Fire Chief Tommy Smith said they are.

"Knowing the profession the way I do and how concerned they are with people's safety, absolutely," he said. "I'm sure they were spot on in giving adequate notice to residents."

Regarding what was said on that fateful Tuesday about evacuations and fire behavior, Heule won't say specifically, though he notes, "Definitely the discussions were held about what should be done and when it should be done."

He also adds that, having served with Springs Fire Chief Rich Brown, he trusts Brown's judgment. "If he said we can stay, we can stay. If he said we need to go, we need to go. I would trust him with my life."

— zubeck@csindy.com

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Answering the call

At the Joint Information Center, phone lines are the front lines

By Pam Zubeck

Dozens of people, many of them volunteering their time, have been staffing the Joint Information Center for days by the time I visit on Thursday evening. Around tables shoved together to form a rectangle of glowing computer screens and jangling phones, they're working to answer thousands of questions.

their frustration, she's also dealt with those who are hurting. One woman said she didn't know about the evacuation order in north Mountain Shadows until she got off work Tuesday, when it was too late to get back. "My dog is there," the woman wailed.

Remembering it, Scott breaks down,

wiping her eyes. "I've cried many times," she finally says.

Still, most people who call thank people like Scott for making information available. Some calls, says Colorado Parks and Wildlife officer Michael Seraphin, even lend levity to the situation. One Old Colorado City woman demanded to know why she *wasn't* being told to evacuate, he says.

Overseeing the interagency operation is Rob Deyerberg, a retired U.S. Forest



Rob Deyerberg has been around many nasty fires, and says he understood the threat of the Waldo Canyon blaze.

"Where can I take my pet?"
"Is my area under evacuation, or just pre-evacuation?"
"Where's my mother?"

Mary Scott, a public information officer with the city of Colorado Springs, is coming off her third 20-hour shift. Foremost, she explains, is making sure that everyone's providing accurate and consistent information. Around the room — along with coolers of bottled water, stale croissants, and countless piles of paper — are several white boards containing the latest on evacuations, shelters, official information sources and the like.

Open from early morning to late at night, the JIC has operated out of the El Paso County Sheriff's downtown Law Enforcement Bureau building since Sunday, June 24. Dozens of people have since worked there, including federal and state representatives, as well as spokespeople from Memorial Health System, Colorado Springs Utilities, the city and El Paso County.

Most have served five-hour shifts, but Scott has stayed longer every day. "It's hard to leave, knowing what's going on," she says.

Although she's answered calls from evacuees and others who have screamed

Service public information officer who started his fire career in 1973 as a wild-land "ground pounder." He's seen some devilish blazes, such as the 460,000-acre Rodeo-Chediski Fire in Arizona that claimed nearly 500 homes and burned simultaneously with the 138,000-acre Hayman Fire in 2002. He rifles through a folder of handwritten notes and phone numbers, finally guessing his crews have handled thousands of calls in five days.

"The sad thing is, we're seeing it more and more," he says, referring to lost homes and structures.

When he worked in Summit County decades ago, he says, "They referred to it as the forest that wouldn't burn," because there was plenty of snowpack and healthy trees, and few homes in the woods. Now, he says, beetle kill, drought and development make the fire potential huge.

When I ask what raced through his mind on Tuesday, he coaxes me to a small window that affords a distant view of the fire where it swept into northwest Colorado Springs neighborhoods. Even three days after the fire burned 346 homes, he chokes up.

"I knew what could happen," he says.

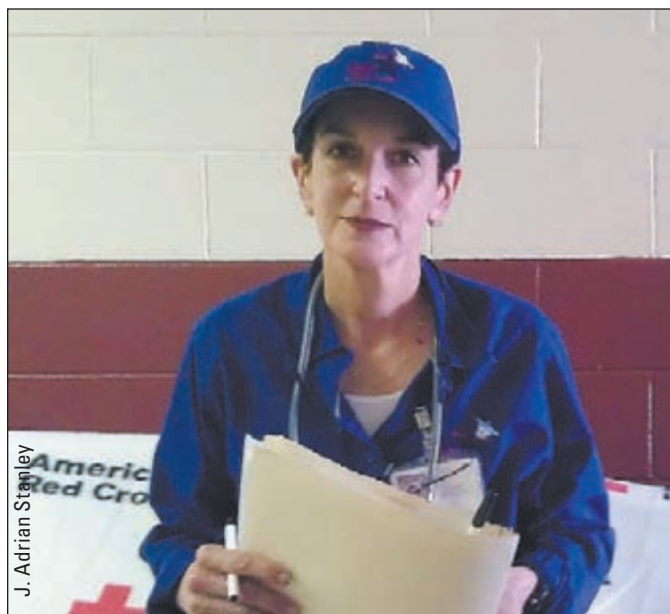
— zubeck@csindy.com

Hit from both sides

One Colorado Springs doctor talks about going from helper to victim and back again

By J. Adrian Stanley

Dr. Judith Reynolds keeps a bag in her trunk with enough supplies to get her through three days in a shelter. Like any member of the Medical Reserve Corps, she stays prepared to help at the sites of fires, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters.



Judith Reynolds says she's 'devastated' for people who have lost their homes in Mountain Shadows.

As soon as the Waldo Canyon Fire started on Saturday, June 23, Reynolds and her colleagues started getting alerts. They were asked to stand by, then quickly deployed to shelters, where Reynolds started putting in hours on the ground.

But on Tuesday, the 63-year-old and her spouse received mandatory evacuation orders themselves. They packed up their most important belongings in their car. Then, after making sure her elderly mother, who lives nearby, was out of harm's way, they left their home behind.

Across the city, social service organizations have enjoyed the generosity of the community, which has offered donations and countless volunteer hours. But nonprofits like Pikes Peak United Way, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado and the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross say their biggest strain has been on staff members who have put in long hours coordinating relief efforts. And each of the previously mentioned organizations note that at least a few of their employees are also evacuees.

Some of them may have lost their homes.

"Certainly, current staff are stretched to the limit," says Catholic Charities president and CEO Mark Rohlena. "And one of the interesting things is, it's very sad, but we have staff that are themselves displaced."

Yet last Saturday afternoon, we found Reynolds — former medical director at the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment and former Colorado College medical director — at the Cheyenne Mountain High School Red Cross shelter. She wasn't looking for help. She was the help. Here are excerpts from our talk with her.

Indy: Can you tell me about your experience?

Judith Reynolds: We have this wonderful group of volunteers called the Medical Reserve Corps. And it got started after 9/11 and there are national Medical Reserve Corps, but El Paso County has one of the most active ones, and I would say one of the most dedicated ones.

We also have a very special relationship with the Red Cross. We have been

training for several years now to help the Red Cross with medical help when they get overwhelmed in the shelters. And we're the only Medical Reserve Corps in the country that has that relationship with Red Cross. ...

We have nurses, PAs, nurse practitioners, physicians, we also have behavioral health service, so we have wonderful therapists, psychiatrists.

We also have some clergy who will help us with spiritual needs. So it's a fantastic organization that really works quietly, under the radar, that people really don't know about.

Indy: And you've put a lot of time into this particular disaster.

JR: Well, I think we have ... The way the Red Cross works sometimes is, when they get to a point where they're pretty overwhelmed, they'll call in [the national Red Cross], which is what's happened, because this is the biggest disaster in the nation at the moment. And they can bring in resources from — we just had a behavioral health person come in from Maine yesterday; I had a nurse from Salt Lake City a couple of days ago.

So we certainly, locally, will help them until that happens, and even if they call in national I think they're still very appreciative. Red Cross has said it's really rare for them to have someone like

a physician, a PA or a nurse practitioner in a shelter.

Indy: What about your own story?

JR: I was evacuated on Tuesday. I live up on Mesa Road just west of 30th [Street], and we were watching the flames. I mean, I saw the fire on Saturday, because I am so well-trained because of MRC, we have done this drill a lot. In fact we had an exercise planned in September called "Sparks Fly," which is a whole mass disaster drill that we were going to do with the city, the county, the Red Cross on a wildfire.

So all of us are saying this is kind of surreal, because we've practiced the disaster so much. So when I saw the flames on Saturday, I can walk to where those flames were, about an hour and 15 minutes from my house. I knew how close that was, and I knew how fast wildfires are. So I started actually packing then. You know, what do you have to lose?

Indy: Do you feel secure about your home now?

JR: We're still on provisional return, which means we still have our belongings with friends, but we did take a little kit to spend the night in our house. And again, there was that new plume [Friday], which was terrifying because again, that was right over Queens Canyon, so we didn't sleep very well. I mean, I haven't slept much in four days. And that's, I think, the hardest thing when you're an evacuee and you're also working.

I said to the nurses, "Look, if I start doing something strange to a patient, let me know, because I haven't had much sleep, and I'm preoccupied and worried." The nurse I worked with up at Lewis-Palmer [High School, another evacuee shelter] a couple days ago, she was busy packing up her house while she was working in the shelter. They weren't evacuated, I don't think yet.

But I'm so proud of these volunteers who are — you know, their whole lives have been disrupted, and they're willing to help others.

Indy: What made you decide to volunteer even after you were evacuated?

JR: This is what I'm trained to do. ... There's some of us, I guess it's like firefighters, there's a certain adrenaline that makes you want to kind of focus and mobilize, and it makes you not think about your own tragedy.

I mean, I'm so glad I don't have to watch the television or listen to the radio right now. It's just too much to say, "OK, is our street on the list?" It's better to focus on others.

Indy: Where do you practice?

JR: I'm at Colorado Treatment Services, which is [off] East Bijou [Street]. And we do, you know, Oxycontin addiction, heroin addiction.

Indy: That's hard stuff.

JR: It's hard stuff, but it's OK, it's very satisfying when it works out.

Indy: What have you been seeing people here for?

JR: Early on in the disaster, there were obviously a lot of smoke-related issues: asthma, emphysema, burning eyes, runny nose, sinus issues. People were

really struggling with the smoke. Lots of emotional issues. If someone has a previously existing psychiatric problem, you add this kind of trauma, that can really throw them off and escalate that issue.

So I'd say smoke-related, psychiatric stuff, and then just kind of general injuries. I mean, people are rushing, loading, cutting, hurting themselves. They're twisting ankles and knees. I know what that's like, you're just putting it in your car as fast as you can.

Older people are a real concern ... there's been

some places that have been really kind to come and take some of our elderly patients to a sort of quieter environment.

Because especially older people who've had some dementia issues or ambulatory issue or any kind of special needs like that, sometimes it's hard.

Indy: We all know in the back of our minds that this could happen to us, but at the same time, it's so strange.

JR: I never thought I would be an evacuee and be responding to the disaster. ... But at the same time, I can completely relate to all the evacuees in the shelter.

And when I sort of shared with them, "Yes, I'm an evacuee too," somehow that sort of helped seal the bond of understanding, that I kind of knew what they were going through.

— stanley@csindy.com

The things we left behind

Amid the confusion of sudden evacuation, a certain kind of clarity sometimes emerges

In *The Things They Carried*, Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien writes about the personal possessions soldiers carried and the emotional attachments that went along with them.

Over the past week and a half, many area residents have found themselves facing a similar situation, as they've been forced to choose, often on a moment's notice, which among a lifetime of possessions will be taken from an evacuation area, and which will be left behind.

What follows are first-person reflections by Waldo Canyon Fire evacuees, as conveyed to me as well as to Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Chet Hardin, Wyatt Miller, Achille Ngoma, Matthew Schniper and J. Adrian Stanley. Some express regret for what they could not take with them. Others describe an unexpected realization that what once appeared essential suddenly seemed less so.

In either case, their experiences speak to the values we place upon the objects we surround ourselves with. And in a broader sense, they may prompt us to reconsider which of them we choose to value most in the years to come.

— **Bill Forman**



All photos by Brienne Boortz

We had been watching the fire for four days without much worry. There was concern for those who were southwest, but no real worry for our home in Rockrimmon. It would have to blaze through miles of houses, businesses and Ute Valley to reach us. Inconceivable.

Then, as the smoke bellowed toward our house, worry crept in. Evacuations were announced for Mountain Shadows and Peregrine. We started to get serious about gathering important papers, clothes and keepsakes. We've been married for 16 years and because of our time together, we found a rhythm. Conversation was minimal, with the news playing from the computer in the office and the TV downstairs. One person loaded and organized the SUV, while the other continued to pack and set items by the door.

Titles, passports and other important documents were a given to take with us, alongside clothes, but what else?

OK, if it can be bought at Wal-Mart, don't pack it. You wouldn't find a monocle worn by my great-great grandfather or my grandma's journal at Wal-Mart, so the curio cabinet filled with family history from the 1800s was emptied, items packed. Fortunately, all things that were deemed important or indispensable were already in cases, travel tubs or curio cabinets.

With the vehicle packed, the two cats loaded, we pulled out of the driveway. An officer had driven by earlier to confirm our intent to evacuate. It was strange and very surreal driving out of our neighborhood. Most homes were empty by now, only a few people waiting to leave until the last moment, like us. Then shock hit as we came around the bend and saw the mountains above us lit up with flames. That's when we knew ... It was conceivable. — **Shelley Krause, Rockrimmon**

The sky was red and ashes were falling. Me and my daughters actually got burned by embers up in Holland Park. So my brother called me and told me that he was getting us out of there. Since we don't have our own vehicle we had to leave everything set, so basically we had 15 minutes to get the stuff. ...

I got my kids, nothing else matters. — **Simone Covey, Holland Park**

I had just gotten back from vacation in St. Martin, and my suitcase was still packed. Everything I needed was there. I realized nothing else mattered, even the things I'd spent my own energy building. It was a secret relief that I didn't mind if everything burned. I had my clothes and that's all I needed to be functional.

I wasn't too worried about pictures, because everything is uploaded in the Web. I also had all these souvenirs from years of traveling, but I just didn't care anymore. It reminded me of the Kerouac quote about "no matter where I live, my trunk's always sticking out from under the bed, I'm ready to leave or get thrown out." — **Xavier Fretard, Manitou Springs**

At 4:15, my neighbor called, hysterically crying and informing me that the fire was in our backyard and was racing down the mountain. My pets were in the house so I left work and raced home, telling the officers at the roadblock that I had a teenage daughter in the house (even though I knew she was not) as they were turning everyone else away at Centennial and Flying W Ranch Road. He allowed me through and I flew up to my home.

I can't describe what I saw in any way other than complete Armageddon. None of the pics or videos

really demonstrate how deep and thick the smoke was in my neighborhood, how close and fast the fire was moving, and how much ash was in the air. ...

All I had on my list to save were my two dogs, three bunnies, and my kids' baby blankets. I always assumed that in a crisis I would be level-headed and prepared. Unfortunately, that was not the case at all. I never considered grabbing legal documents such as birth certificates or Social Security cards. I didn't think of grabbing clothes or pictures. I think I was so focused on what could not be replaced, and what carried the most value to my kids. — **Amanda Enloe, Mountain Shadows, next to the Flying W Ranch**

[I left] some angels that were grandmother's. The first thing that I thought was, "Oh no, I forgot my angels." It came down that hill so fast, you didn't have time to think. They were ones that I had gotten her, and then I got them back, so they are very special to me. — **Lori Davis, Mountain Shadows**

We were just about to go, and we got a phone call. And it was automated; and Bob [my husband] yells out at us, "You're not going anywhere. We have to go now." And at that time we had everything at the front door.

But it's like, "Do I take this? Do I take that?" Oh my gosh — I'm looking at the house and thinking, "Everything has to go," you know? But we got the cats and the dogs.

Oh, and then right after that the power shut off, just like that. It was instant. So then I said, "We have to get going, get everything in the car," and Bob's saying, "The garage door — we can't open the garage door." ...



And then, so, we're leaving, and [my son's] standing looking at our curio cabinet — just standing there looking. And I was like, "Jason, we've gotta go." And he goes, "Wha, wha ..." In his mind, he doesn't know what to take, either. And I said, "We just have to go. Come on. Let's just go." — **Virginia Smoot, Rockrimmon**

My daughter and I started sorting through what to take on Saturday night, so we kind of had a plan. We took all our photos out of frames, and I packed up all our important docs. It all sat in the garage till Tuesday. Everything else we felt was replaceable.

The only thing I regret is, in the panic on Tuesday, as I filled up my car already full of tools, I didn't have room for my lizard tank. So we put Ringo, our bearded dragon, in a box and, not knowing what was going to happen, drove around trying to find a pet store that was open and would give him a good home. We found one in Fountain. They waited for us. — **Triton Gulczynski, Lower Rockrimmon**

My neighborhood has a lot of elderly and retired folks. My first thought was making sure they knew about the evacuation and they were OK. So I ran around to several townhomes in my complex before I even started thinking about packing.

Once I got back home, I had limited time to figure out what to bring. In the rush, I forgot major things like the title to my car. That could have been pretty important if I had lost the house. ...

I had a very eye-opening experience as I stood in my house after receiving the reverse 911 call to evacuate. I was thinking and looking through all the crap that I

have, realizing there is nothing *that* important to me.

Yes, I like my stuff and it would be expensive to replace it all, but I could also live without any of it. I found that once you start grabbing things you think might be important, where do you stop? — **Toby Lorenc, Pine Cliff**

I would say that the kinds of things [we left] were not things that are just heartbreaking. You always have some things that you just really like. ...

We lived in Belgium for three years. We have a lot of special memories there ... we were stationed over there, so we got some really cool pieces of furniture there. [Starts crying]. I don't know why I'm crying, it's all still there. ...

It's not the house and the stuff. It's the people. — **Rita Burns, Hunter's Point (Upper Rockrimmon)**

There's a few little things. Like pictures, like my dad passed away, so there's pictures that I had with him that I'm still not sure if they're replaceable. But I'd had those. I'd had a guitar that was my dad's, and stuff that I'd had in the basement. There were just so many things around that by the time we got pre-evacuation and it went straight to mandatory, there was no possible way I was going to have a chance to go grab it.

So since then, there's certain things that over a period of time that I've been like, "Man, I really wish I had done that." But I made a commitment with [my wife] and I told her that anything that's gone, it's gone. It's in the past, there's no bringing it back, no sense in kicking ourselves up for it. — **Jason Hopper, quarry area near Centennial Boulevard and Vindicator Drive**

There were two items that I was very upset about being left behind.

[One is] a picture of my grandmother from when she was 18 or so. It is a black-and-white bust. She gave it to my grandfather as a present to him when they were dating. I have always loved this picture. When I was young I would make my grandmother display it, and when she passed away it was the only thing that I asked for. It now sits in my baby's nursery because Thelma, my baby, was named after Thelma, my grandmother. I was heartbroken when I thought it was going to be destroyed.

The other item is my 1969 AMC AMX. It is in our garage, and I just really love that car. I have had it since I was 18 and have nothing but good memories with it. — **Shandra Sweet-Winans, Peregrine**

We're art collectors and there were some substantial wall-mounted pieces of art that were too big to take down, or they were hanging from the ceiling or what-not, that we had to leave behind — even though we got more than a hundred pieces out. ...

I [also] forgot to bring a jade Chinese seal, you know, those red seals they put on paintings, that my late father designed for me. My husband forgot to take ... a lifetime of finished poems, first drafts, and poems in the works. — **Una Ng-Brasch, Mountain Shadows**

My primary concern was to get my kids to safety. They were worried about their things, so I gave them each a trash bag and asked them to quickly gather their most important possessions.

The difference between what I would consider important and what they considered important was obvious.

While I would have grabbed clothes, they were gathering stuffed animals.

In my haste to get the children out of the house to safety, I managed to forget to pack anything for myself, aside from some pants for an important interview — and I didn't even remember to lock the door on the way out. So when reports came of looting in my neighborhood I was horrified. All of my possessions were in an unlocked house in a neighborhood full of looters.

So Wednesday night we decided to try to sneak into our neighborhood to lock the house, completely unaware that the neighborhood was crawling with National Guard and ATF agents, one of whom caught my son and I sneaking toward the house. He was nice enough to escort us to my home and let us lock up. So I guess getting busted by federal agents has become part of our family legacy. — **Ted Russo, Rockrimmon**

A couple of years ago I inherited my father's Harley-Davidson, a '96 softail, and that's still sitting in the garage. On Tuesday when it looked like my neighborhood was going to burn down, I was watching it on television and they were showing my house and the fire was really close. At that point I really regretted not taking the time to get that out.

And then some photo albums. My daughters are now 14 and 12. When they were first born we used a lot of film instead of digital, so those early photo albums with those early pictures that would have been difficult to recover. — **Laura Eurich, Mountain Shadows**

I wish I'd remembered the notebook where I wrote down all the shit I was supposed to be doing this week, because now I've forgotten it all. Also my camera. — **Dolo McComb, Piñon Valley**

I sneaked past the police barricade three times, the first time on foot, and the last two times in a vehicle.

The first time I went through on foot — about a mile away from my car — I got everything that I needed to get me just through the next tour: all the instruments I would need (guitar, cornet, accordion), my laptop, and a full box of LPs to sell. [Note: Liam is a musician who performs under the name Dear Rabbit.]

The second time I went through with my sister in her vehicle, I got the remaining inventory of Dear Rabbit LPs.

The third time that I went through with a photographer friend who wanted to document it. When we arrived, he realized that I lived in the same neighborhood as a friend; they would not let her back to get her dog. So we saved a dog's life; that gives me joy and is certainly more important than anything of mine that I left behind.

Some people were saying that I should get my important papers, but I can never remember where I keep them, and that stuff just stresses me out anyway. I got pretty much everything that I consider important to me. If I had more time or knew for sure my house was gonna burn, I'd like to save my piano and tuba, but that's about the only thing I would have done differently. — **Rence Liam, Piñon Valley**

My cat! I couldn't find the cat ... — **Lynn Smith, Cascade**

I went to my jewelry box. I debated for a while if I should take my wedding ring from my recent divorce. It was really freeing to say no.

I moved my way to the basement for photo albums. I grabbed one photo album from when I was a child, but purposely decided to leave an entire container of miscellaneous photos from my "past life."

I think the biggest question I asked myself was, why do I have so much unneeded stuff? I really realized that everything is replaceable. — **Gabrielle Waters, Manitou Springs**

We were hearing ambulances and fire truck sirens as we were packing up, so it was definitely getting scary. I told my kids that they could each fill a backpack with

some toys. As my son, Liam, walked down the stairs with a bin of Legos, he asked, "Mommy, how long will we have to evaporate?" I had to smile within the chaos of the moment. ...

We had time to leave with our personal belongings. We had just had a yard sale two weeks before, so I knew where most of our important boxes were: baby books, photo albums, journals, kids' artwork. But when it came to actually leaving the house and locking up, it was hard to choose what to bring and what to leave behind. It was a good lesson in prioritizing.

I kept finding things as I would walk in to rooms at the last minute: pictures on the wall, a card my son had just made his dad for Father's Day. I was stuffing them in to any random box or bag as we were walking out. I eventually had to tell myself, "It isn't worth it. It isn't worth it. Just get out."

As we were driving away, we remembered my son's snails from school that we were taking care of for the summer. I made my husband go back and grab them.

My heart goes out to those people who didn't have that sort of time.. — **Kathleen South, over the ridge of Rampart Reservoir**



lots of people were coming up to my property to take pictures."

Strong makes it clear that she's not opposed to evacuating, entirely: "If this fire were to cross 24," she says, "I would leave."

In fact, she adds that she and her family could quickly do exactly that. The cars are packed, and the horses were evacuated on Sunday. But, as the fire is steadily being contained, it appears that Strong won't have to go anywhere.

"The police were really nice," she says, when she told them she wasn't evacuating. "But I wouldn't want to encourage other people to do it."

— **Chet Hardin**

One who stayed behind

Thursday, Kelly Strong watched all day as the C-130s swooped deep into Ute Pass.

"It was amazing," she says. "You can't stop. It's like an accident; you can't stop watching."

Friday was much calmer; Strong spent some of it next door, tending to her neighbor's chickens.

Such was life in Woodland Park last week for someone who defied the mandatory evacuation order that had been issued Wednesday. Strong readily admits her neighborhood, south of U.S. Highway 24, was otherwise empty. In every driveway, in fact, the police had come by and spray painted an "X" to indicate that the house had been checked, with the number "0" beside it.

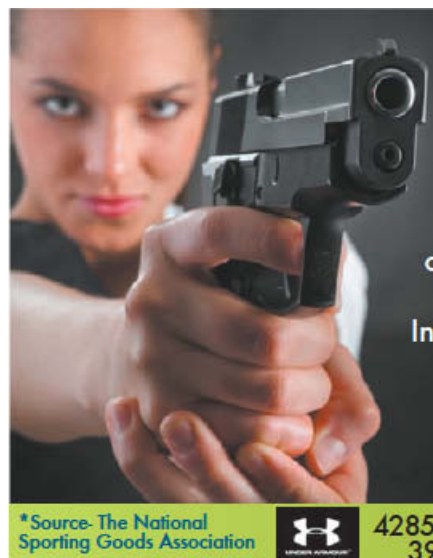
In Strong's driveway, that number was 6. As in, six people inside the

house. Or six bodies to look for.

Speaking by phone over an aggressive and obnoxious rooster, Strong says that the three members of her family decided to stay put because they could easily track the movement of the fire. In fact, friends who'd been evacuated from Cascade decided to stay at her place even though it was still in an evacuation zone.

"I could see where it was coming from," she says. "I can understand why the other people in my neighborhood left, because they can't see."

Her house was so well-positioned to survey the blaze, she claims, that "everyone would stand in my driveway — even the police — every day until we evacuated. I can see Pyramid Mountain; I look down along all of Rampart Range. I finally had to close my gate, because



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Signs in the cinders

A professional explains how wildfire investigation is done

By Chet Hardin

What started the Waldo Canyon Fire? With any luck, we will have the answer to that question soon.

"Fire not only destroys things, it also leaves evidence," says Jeff Berino, a fire chief in Summit County and a private wildfire investigator with Arvada-based Pie Consulting & Engineering. And investigators use that evidence to track down its cause in a methodical, often time-consuming process.



Kramer will offer no timeline yet.

Because the fire raged largely in a national forest, that investigation is being headed by the U.S. Forest Service.

According to Lt. Jeff Kramer with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Forest Service is being assisted by a task force made up of personnel from local law enforcement agencies, as well as the FBI and ATF. At a Tuesday morning press conference, Kramer stated that he could offer no timeline regarding the investigation.

Speaking as someone with 33 years of experience with fires, both as a firefighter and an investigator, Berino says the first step in the Waldo Canyon area will surely be to get the investigation site down to a manageable size.

Colorado Springs Fire Marshal Brett Lacey agrees, and adds, "Wherever a fire starts, it's a pretty small area."

Investigators will review the weather there during the fire, as wind is one of the primary drivers.

"That will tell them generally the direction that the fire went," Berino says. "They will also look at the topography and the fuel package."

And they'll conduct interviews with eyewitnesses to the early flames. News footage from helicopters can also be useful, as well as video provided by regular citizens. "YouTube videos are always popular," he says.

In the case of Waldo Canyon, a number of people, including media, saw the blaze in its early stages. One June 23 video, shot on Rampart Range Road by a coach with Carmichael Training Systems, is already being scrutinized by investigators, according to CBS4 in Denver.

Once the area is narrowed as much as possible, investigators will look for indicators of the fire's movement. These might be patterns left by the fire on trees, rocks, fence posts, cars, homes, foundations, and so on.

Berino says he's used the scarring on golf balls, cow patties, skeletal remains of wildlife, "anything that is out there."

Directional indicators can pinpoint the fire's possible ignition spot within a tenth of an acre, or just 4,000 square feet, roughly the size of a typical Mountain Shadows home's foundation.

"Then we start looking with magnifying glasses, and doing grid search line by line," even running a magnet over the ground, Berino says. "It is painstaking work."

What will he be looking for?

"Anything that doesn't belong."

Often, he says, it's something obvious: the striker plate from a book of matches; remnants of a roadside campfire; a piece of a catalytic converter; glass that the sun might have hit just right; a lighter; a bottle rocket.

Lightning strikes are the largest cause of naturally occurring fires in Colorado, he says. Often

if a tree was struck, it won't be completely consumed and will still bear a telltale scar. Or, if the lightning hit the ground, it will melt the soil, leaving behind a glass-like substance that can go a foot deep.

That said, Berino cautions that sometimes, it's less obvious. And despite the work that goes into an investigation, a fire's cause will remain unknown 10 to 20 percent of the time.

"You may have a hunch," he says, "but you have to prove it scientifically."

— chet@csindy.com



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Been there, done this

Those who have endured other disasters share a little advice for the days ahead

Compiled by Kirk Woundy and Bryce Crawford

“They don’t wanna announce it on the 6 o’clock news, but part of you is like, ‘It doesn’t matter. Just say it. Say my house is OK, you know, or say it’s not OK.’ ... At least it’s definitive — it’s gone.”

If Jo Anne Mayeux talks like someone who’s been there, it’s because she has. The 57-year-old former paralegal was washed out of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Today, she calls Divide home, and though she managed to avoid evacuation in the Waldo Canyon Fire, she’s been watching it closely, horrified by its hour-to-hour unpredictability. (She says she tells her Southern friends, “I’ll take a hurricane over this.”)

Mayeux’s overarching message, even for those who have lost everything as she did seven years ago, is one of hope: “Keep your head up high and just realize, you know, this too will pass, you know. You will rebuild, you will get help.”

But she also makes it clear: In some ways, rebuilding is going to be harder than most of us might imagine.

At the *Houston Press* and the *Gambit Weekly* in New Orleans, altweeklies in the nationwide association to which the *Independent* belongs, reporters have heard dozens of disaster stories. They’ve lived them, too. So, inspired by the same morbid curiosity that prompted our reaching out to Mayeux, we took members of both papers up on their generous offers to write up a little something about slogging through the aftermath of a crisis. What follows are their tips, in their words.

Richard Connelly, *Houston Press*

Wildfires are not much like hurricanes, except for two things: The hassles of evacuating, and dealing with [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] in the aftermath.

In Houston, we’ve had plenty of experiences with hurricanes — right down to our mayor shouting epithets at FEMA workers he didn’t think were moving fast enough — and even some with wildfires.

Neither are fun, obviously. But if you want your post-disaster FEMA dealings to be “easy,” in the most elastic sense of that word, we can offer some tips.

• **If you are seeking a claim from FEMA, don’t expect logic.** The system tends to get fine-tuned with each disaster, but if you’re somewhere that normally doesn’t deal with these things regularly, you’ll be dealing with bureaucrats overwhelmed by the number of claims they’re suddenly forced to handle.

For instance: FEMA might say you need a copy of a certain document from the city, and when/if you get through to



Jocelyn Augustino

One positive: All of us should be spared the handshakes with Mr. Brown.

the city, they will tell you that document can’t be obtained without some other document from the county. When/if you reach the county, they’ll tell you that you need to get that city document first. None of it makes sense. It never does. Eventually, hopefully, things work out.

• **Make sure you try to get all that’s available.** That means getting reimbursed for any rent you paid while you couldn’t live in your house. Sounds easy, but ...

• **Be patient.** Be assured none of this will go smoothly, even if it’s just a matter of getting a live person on the phone. Many, if not most, of the bureaucrats you’ll be dealing with do want to help, but there is always conflicting information floating around on how to do that correctly.

You don’t want to wait too long before starting the process, because funds are generally on a first-come, first-served basis. But eventually FEMA will likely open a central processing center in the area and — since Colorado is not a state the Obama administration wants to piss off near the election — it should have its act together.

It will just take a lot of patience on your part.

Staff, *Gambit Weekly*

Those of us who went through Hurricane Katrina and the federal levee failures can empathize with you, but no one disaster is like another.

Will FEMA bring in trailers for the displaced? How will the American Red Cross respond? Will President Barack Obama’s administration rise to the occasion? There’s no way of knowing any of this — yet.

But there were some lessons Louisiana learned that may come in handy.

• **Save every receipt you incur while evacuating or evacuated,** whether it seems relevant or not: hotels, meals, gasoline, personal supplies. Some of it may be reimbursable; some of it may be tax-deductible. (The Internal Revenue Service has special tax deductions related to disaster relief.)

• **Avoid taking in “opinion” news and blogs as best you can.** There will be people saying the fire is your fault because you live in an area that can have fires. There will be people saying that you’re not worthy of help for the same

reason. There will be people who want to discuss this tragedy only through their own lens: climate change, pro-Democrat, pro-Republican, pro-Obama, anti-Obama, whatever, and they will come from across the political spectrum. (I saw that Focus on the Family was using the fires to argue for ... abstinence education. Really.)

It’s all just noise. You have enough stress. If you don’t pay attention, you don’t have to engage or get enraged.

• **Realize that insurance companies can be great — or they can be nightmarish.** Remember that insurance adjusters are people in your community. Many of them will have your best interests at heart and want to make you whole again. Those who don’t have that experience are in for a long road ahead.

• **Prepare to feel guilty** because no matter how you fared, you will feel guilty because someone else had it worse. Your neighbors may have lost their home. Their neighbors may have lost their home *and* their pet. It’s survivor’s guilt, it’s irrational, and it’s totally natural.

• **Prepare to be frustrated** at how quickly your story fades from the national headlines once the fires are out and the media have gone on to something else.

• **Prepare to be shocked** at both the kindness, and the callousness, of your fellow Americans in the weeks to come.

• **Be glad that Michael Brown has his hands full** being a jackass on the radio (850 KOA in Denver!) and isn’t actually coordinating the federal response to this disaster. It’s bad enough without Brownie getting involved. Trust us on that one.

— newsroom@csindy.com

How FEMA figures

The Federal Emergency Management Agency does have boots on the ground, as they say, but how large a role the agency will play in Waldo Canyon Fire recovery is still to be determined. In the meantime, it’s doing what it does best, says public information officer John Treanor: funding the first-responders.

“What has been declared,” he says in a Tuesday phone conversation with the *Indy*, “is that we’ll provide funds for ... emergency life-saving, or life-sustaining efforts not already covered by the direct federal assistance.”

Treanor says that, at this point, affected locals seeking help should do it through the government channels that they would at any other time. As this happens, FEMA assessment teams will be determining if the agency’s role needs to increase, something the spokesman thinks is likely.

“I would think so, based on my previous [experience], but I’ve also been surprised,” Treanor says. “And fires are a little different than floods, or hurricanes, or tornadoes, or earthquakes, in that it seems that — and particularly if the area is somewhat well-to-do — that they’re fully covered by insurance.”

“That’s one of the things [the assessment teams] are gonna find out — get an idea of what percentage of the damage and lost homes were covered by insurance.”

— Bryce Crawford

Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Marshall charges dropped

District Judge Barney Iuppa dismissed six charges last week against developer Ray Marshall, saying they were related to the same set of facts for which a jury recently acquitted him. Iuppa has made several rulings in Marshall's favor, including having tossed a charge of racketeering in 2010.

District Attorney Dan May says his office will appeal Iuppa's latest move. May's chief deputy, Robyn Cafasso, told the *Gazette* the charges are separate from earlier allegations that Marshall stole money from investors to pump into other deals. That wasn't part of the city's deal with Marshall to provide a new headquarters for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A grand jury earlier this year returned an indictment alleging Marshall funneled some of that money into his own pocket. According to an arrest warrant, Marshall stole more than \$1 million from the USOC project, including \$400,000-plus in El Pomar Foundation grant funds. Marshall allegedly set up duplicate accounts to disguise stolen funds, and delayed responses when asked how money was being spent. Charges are pending against Marshall's business partner, James Brodie. — **PZ**

UCH, city sign lease

A lease of city-owned Memorial Health System to University of Colorado Health was inked Monday, setting the stage for an Aug. 28 special election. If voters give their OK, the city will turn over Memorial's assets to UCH to run, and receive some \$74 million up front and \$5.6 million in annual payments for the 40-year term, along with additional payments based on Memorial's performance.

The city remains responsible for Memorial's debt of about \$320 million and must deal with Public Employees' Retirement Association payouts for those employees who will leave the system if voters approve the lease.

City Council has approved measures enabling the lease, including establishing a nonprofit foundation to handle lease proceeds. That document allows Mayor Steve Bach to appoint its board, with Council approval of nominated members.

At the signing, City Attorney Chris Melcher called the lease "another example of rebuilding for the future," according to UCH spokesman Dan Weaver. — **PZ**

AP intern from Springs slain

Armando Montano, 22, son of a Colorado Springs couple who teach at Colorado College, was found dead Saturday in Mexico City, where he was working as an Associated Press intern. The AP reported his body was found in an apartment building elevator shaft in the Condesa neighborhood. Mexican authorities are investigating, and the U.S. embassy is monitoring.

Montano, who went by Mando, is the son of Diane Alters and Mario Montano, who are in Mexico and could not be reached.

The Grinnell College graduate had covered

stories about nine young elephants from Namibia that wound up on an animal reserve in Mexico's Puebla state, and the shooting of three federal police officers at the Mexico City airport, the AP reported. Montano had planned to attend a master's program in journalism at the University of Barcelona in the fall. AP's Latin America editor based in Mexico City, Marjorie Miller, described him as "smart, joyful, hardworking and talented."

Montano covered the Iowa presidential caucuses as a *New York Times* intern. He also had interned at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the Colorado Independent online news service and the *Seattle Times*.

"The loss of this vibrant young journalist is a shock to his colleagues and the long list of people who called Armando friend," Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of the AP, said in the AP story.

His father, a professor of anthropology, chairs that department. His mother, a former *Gazette* journalist, works in CC's communications office and teaches journalism and new media. Memorial details were not known as of press time. — **PZ**

C-130s grounded after crash

While battling a wildfire in South Dakota on Sunday, a C-130 out of Colorado Springs' Peterson Air Force Base reportedly crashed, killing at least one person on board. The accident, the second involving an air tanker in just two months, prompted the brief grounding of all firefighting-equipped C-130s nationwide. The planes were back in the air Tuesday.

While those aircraft have been an important part of the effort to combat the Waldo Canyon Fire, National Interagency Fire Center spokesperson Jennifer Jones has told media that those fighting the fire locally should be able to adapt.

As of early Saturday morning, C-130s had dropped 133,500 gallons of retardant on the Waldo Canyon blaze. — **CH**

Wildlife outlook good

In the Waldo Canyon Fire, has our wildlife survived like Bambi, or been swept up in the flames? Michael Seraphin, spokesperson for the Division of Wildlife in Colorado's Southeast Region, says young fawns might have been the most common victims early on. Less than a week into the fire, his department had euthanized two fawns with severe injuries.

Most animals will survive, Seraphin says: "Basically the animals that can run will run; the animals that can fly will fly away; and the animals that can burrow into the ground to seek protection will burrow."

DOW hopes the bighorn sheep in Queens Canyon, one of the nation's most studied herds, have fled north to the Air Force Academy, part of their natural range. But the division won't know exactly how animals fared until later. — **JAS**

Compiled by Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.



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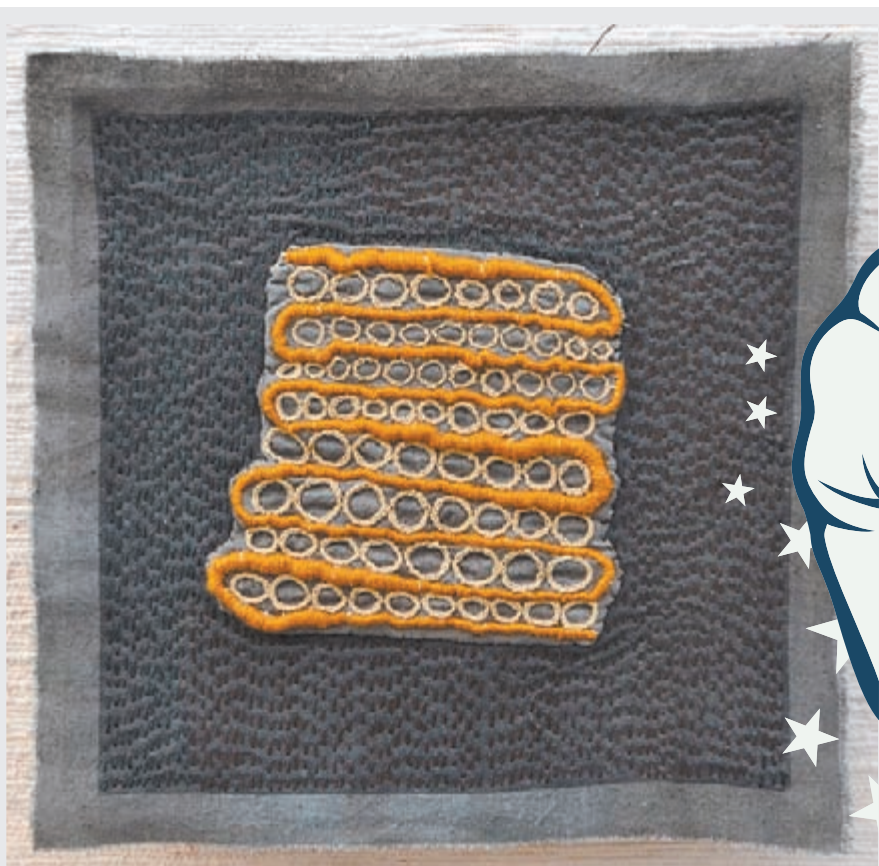
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A common thread

Fiber art binds teacher and student at Marmalade

Working with textiles means working with a portable medium. You can fold your piece up, stuff it in a backpack or purse, and pick it back up again out in the world, says 23-year-old artist and recent Colorado College graduate Eleanor Anderson.

Anderson enjoys a flexibility unknown to Jeanne Steiner, whose 16-harness AVL dobby loom is an elaborate, boxy contraption that no one curls up with in a coffee shop. Yet the two have more in common than not.

For one thing, they're both showing in the quaintly named *Illuminated*, opening this week at Marmalade at Smokebrush. The two women are also connected via CC: Steiner was an instructor to Anderson, who majored in studio art and works with textiles, printing and bookmaking.

"I'm really honored to be in this show next to her," Anderson says of her former professor, "because she's the master weaver and the master colorist with dyes."

Where Steiner — who also serves as CC's Arts and Crafts Program director — works on complex weave structures and intricate dye patterns, Anderson takes a more deconstructed approach.

She begins with a 14-inch-square swatch of muslin (at about \$3 a yard, it's cheap for a recent graduate, and possesses a grainy quality she likes) and prints a basic background on it using a press. With stencils, she applies designs. And after they dry, Anderson embroiders on top of it. The results are part-retro and (to borrow from KRCC's *The Big Something*, which interviewed Anderson earlier this year) part-Bauhaus images that are as sophisticated as they are organic.

"They're quirky and they're a little bit off and they're not precise," Anderson says.

They're also touchable, and Anderson invites you to lay your hands on them as part of experiencing the work. It's hard to resist anyway, with the way the fabric tugs with certain stitches or pulls beneath a sewn net design. It all speaks to Anderson's handmade aesthetic; she taught herself, after all, and still doesn't know how to use a sewing machine.

Steiner's work maintains a similar effervescence, despite weaving's highly structured system. "It's so process-oriented and you have to have so much foresight, and sometimes I think weavings can really come out looking kind of stiff," says Anderson, who has some weaving experience herself. "But I think hers look so lively and playful."

Anderson has shown in her hometown of Cleveland as well as in Phoenix, but this is her first exhibit locally. Her second is already scheduled for August: *Bright Young Things*, a showcase of emerging Front Range artists at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs' Galleries of Contemporary Art.

— Edie Adelstein

4 Wednesday

holiday



INDEPENDENCE DAY

In June 1940, Winston Churchill gave his famous "We shall fight on the beaches" speech, telling the House of Commons, much like today's smokejumpers might say, "We shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air." But it's the victory in the battle *with* Britain that we celebrate today; and while the Waldo Canyon Fire has caused many **Independence Day** celebration cancellations, a few impromptu benefits have popped up. In Manitou Springs, bring a dozen cookies and join the **Little Red Wagon Sidewalk Parade** to show support for emergency personnel, businesses and your own neighbors; meet at 12:30 in the Tajine Alami parking lot (10 Old Man's Trail) for a 1 o'clock march to Soda Springs Park. Then hit **Marika's Coffeehouse** (739 Manitou Ave., marikascOFFEEHOUSE.COM) for a day of music and art to raise money for Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, starting at noon. Meanwhile, to show tradition is still kicking, **Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site** (3105 Gateway Road, rockledgeranch.com) will throw its long-running July 4th party from 10 to 5 (tickets \$4 to \$8 per person, kids under 6 free). And finally, **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com) opens at 5:30 for its **R&B and Hip-Hop for Hope Fire Relief Fundraiser** featuring Kopesetik Soul, Musik Theory with Tony Exum Jr. and Armed Green and others. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds will be split between Care and Share and the Red Cross. — **BC and EA**



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Illuminated

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5 Thursday

recreation



Colorado Springs is an avid cycling town — which can get annoying if your bike sports streamers, a picnic basket or a thick layer of dust.

Luckily, **Colorado Springs Cruisers** is in your corner, offering a new weekly ride that eschews gear-shifting, mocks Lycra, and punishes speedsters by forcing them to "buy the slow guy a beer." Banish the inferiority complex and rock your banana seat with pride tonight — and every Thursday — at **Lofty's** (287 E. Fountain Blvd., facebook.com/coscruisers). Riders 21-plus will meet at 9 p.m., roll out at 10, and do a leisurely ride. Tonight's special guest is Brad Evans, founder of the wildly popular Denver Cruisers. — **CS**



6 Friday

art

It's interesting that Jeremy Grant titled his new show at **S.P.Q.R.** (17B E. Bijou St.) *Ordinary Saints*. Though he describes the show in terms of spiritual faith and redemption, that title takes on a more somber meaning today. Ordinary life has turned upside down for so many, and often those most heroic — saintly, even — would describe their actions as ordinary. Contemplate this as you peruse Grant's found art and assemblage, as well as the work of other talented locals: Troy DeRose (also in S.P.Q.R.), Trevor Thomas and Jess Preble, who are showing next door at the **Modbo**. It all opens at 5:30 tonight with a reception, and stays up through July. — **EA**

7 Saturday

dance

The Andalusian art of flamenco traditionally consists of four components. At 8 tonight, touring performance group **Flamenco Denver**, including Seville native María Vázquez and singer Meagan Chandler, will perform the first three — voice, dance and guitar — during **Noche de Flamenco at Marmalade at Smokebrush** (219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, smokebrush.org/marmalade/events). The fourth element, *jaleo*, is a rowdy clapping-stomping-and-shouting more typically translated as "hellraising." And that part will be up to you and your fellow audience members to contribute to the show. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and just \$15 for students. — **KA**

8 Sunday

music

James McCartney, Damian Marley and Jason Bonham can attest that musical talent is hereditary. One more case study for the offspring of rock gods taking after their dads will come to **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com) at 6 tonight: **Salvador Santana**. On his website, Santana the Younger lists dear ol' dad as one of his many musical influences. He also cites charitable organization Artists for a New South Africa as a passionate cause of his. The all-ages show costs \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. — **JK**



9 Monday

music

Fans of Brian Wilson-era **Beach Boys** felt a shiver of recognition hearing their incomparably gorgeous harmonies kick in on the chorus to "That's Why God Made the Radio." Released just last month, the unexpectedly satisfying comeback single marks a historic 50-year anniversary reunion of original members who haven't recorded an album together in two decades. Now they're all back on the road: Wilson, Mike Love, Al Jardine, Bruce Johnston, even David Marks, who hasn't been with the band since 1963's *Little Deuce Coupe*. Their 45-song set list has been garnering rave reviews, and you can hear it during tonight's all-ages, 7:30 show at **Red Rocks** (18300 W. Alameda Pkwy., Morrison, redrocksonline.com). Tickets start at \$39.50. — **BF**

10 Tuesday

parade

Consider it a warm-up for the community-wide, post-fire party that so many people are envisioning these days. Not so much the 72nd annual **Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade** itself, which kicks off four days of rodeo-related events (coloradospringsrodeo.com) by sending animals, soldiers and cowboy hats down **Tejon Street**. But the "downtown street dance" afterward, which will feature the classic rock and country covers of local band Chute Nine. Money from parade entries and the parade program goes to scholarships for families of fallen or wounded soldiers, but watching, cheering and two-stepping are all free. — **KW**



Help the community recover with these tips for your week

1. If you're out for some last-minute holiday necessities, consider heading to **Whole Foods Market Pikes Peak** (7635 N. Academy Blvd., wholefoodsmarket.com) for **5% Community Day**. On Wednesday, July 4, the store will donate that much of its total sales to the American Red Cross Colorado Wildfire Fund.
2. A one-stop shop for monetary donations, **McCloskey's Donation Station** (McCloskey Suzuki of Southern Colorado, 6710 N. Academy Blvd., tinyurl.com/fbmccloskeydonations) will host stations for the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross, Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado and other charitable organizations from 3 to 7 p.m., Thursday, July 5.
3. They're snazzy, they're only \$20, but even better, 100 percent of profits go to Colorado wildfire relief efforts across the state. The much gabbed-about **Wild Fire Tees** (wildfiretees.com) crew, made up of members of the local design community, sold more than \$300,000 worth of shirts in less than a week, and donated more than 570 shirts to firefighters.
4. Head to **McCabe's Tavern** (520 S. Tejon St., mccabestavern.com) anytime between 3 and 11 p.m.
5. The **Hope Photography Project** (facebook.com/studion80six), organized in part by *Indy* photographer Bryan Oller, is a collection of photos whose mission is to help recapture family moments, via camera, for those who lost photos and albums in the fire. Contact Oller at studio80six@gmail.com to learn how to help.
6. As of this writing, almost 80 people had lost their jobs due to fire-related troubles in Manitou Springs. Help keep the mountain town's economy afloat by heading there Monday, July 9, for the **Manitou Mob** (tinyurl.com/fbmanitoumob), devoted to helping sustain local businesses. Starting at noon, whip out your wallet and show some cash love. Shop, eat, stay and play.
7. On Tuesday, July 10, visit any **Qdoba Mexican Grill** (facebook.com/QdobaMexicanGrill) in the state and donate at least \$1 in return for a coupon toward a free order of chips and 3-Cheese Queso. The donations will go to American Red Cross Colorado Wildfires 2012, with Qdoba (a Colorado-based chain) matching up to \$50,000 toward a total of \$100,000.

— **Edie Adelstein**

7 Days contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Jeff Koch, Matthew Schniper, Claire Swinford and Kirk Woundy.

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Paintings by Angie Schwickerath, opening at 5 p.m., Friday, July 6, at Cucuru Gallery Café

Before you know it
2012 Colorado Burlesque Festival, July 12-15 at various venues in Denver

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Appetite

Unto others

Waldo Canyon Fire evacuees find cheer and chow from many generous community restaurants

By Bryce Crawford

To the soundtrack of a man playing The Band's "The Weight" in an empty quad, Cheyenne Mountain High School created community from chaos last Friday night. Supplies for sheltered pets were dropped off near the main entrance; the lower parking lot made like a NASCAR infield, full of insurance companies' trailers and their adjusters; and near the gym, car after car delivered food from local restaurants.

school the first night evacuees sought refuge. He was turned back due to fire restrictions.

However, Layton remembers, "They said, 'If you can redirect your plan and help us, we would love it.' So I took it as a challenge, and I said, 'All right — I know some people in the restaurant businesses. We can do some prepared meals and bring 'em here, so let's see if we can get this done.'"

Support was near-unanimous. If a restaurant couldn't commit in the following days, it signed on for future meals; spots like Phantom Canyon Brewing Co., the Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group (which runs Slayton's Tejon Street Grill, Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill, and Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill), and Lemongrass Bistro were all standing by when the Salvation Army said on Sunday it no longer needed ongoing help.

Independent of anything organized by Layton, west-side restaurateurs have been doing their damndest to assist, too. Coordinated by Meadow Muffins' Todd Delahanty, representatives of Dat's Italian!, Front Range Barbeque, Jake & Telly's Greek Taverna, Pizzeria Rustica, TAPateria, Colorado City Creamery, Paravicini's Italian Bistro, La Baguette Bakery, Garden of the Gods Gourmet and the Food Designers provided some 2,400 meals for the displaced. Even with financial support from national food distributors, Rocky Mountain Coors Distributing and New Belgium Brewing Co., Delahanty estimates owners of these restaurants spent \$2,000-plus of their own money.

It's mattered, says Dan Wilson, a captain with the Salvation Army.

"Up in Cripple Creek and Divide, the canteens like this are cooking over 200 meals," says Wilson, overseeing the donations back at the high school. "But in this situation, in Colorado Springs, a lot of restaurants are wanting to help, and it's a blessing. It's amazing — just so many different restaurants."

And while the community helped, meal after meal making its way into the refrigerators for the evening dinner, the man with the guitar played on.

"Take a load off Annie, take a load for free / Take a load off Annie, and you put the load right on me."



Bryce Crawford

Bite Me's Bill Layton: 'You know, some really good things happened today.'

There were trays of stroganoff from Rabbit Hole Dinner and Drinks; brats from Uwe's German Restaurant; and big, foil-wrapped platters of pasta from Roman Villa Pizza. Angela's Cupcakes and Pupcakes, McCabe's Tavern, SouthSide Johnny's and the north-side 3 Margaritas all had food flowing into the back of the Salvation Army's mobile unit, some in those big, blue, plastic IKEA bags.

Two days later, Rudy's Country Store and Bar-B-Q kicked in all 300 meals, alone feeding the entire population of evacuees in the high school's air-conditioning-free gym.

This group would likely have responded to the Waldo Canyon Fire without anybody's prompting, but it was made a whole lot easier by the time and efforts of Bill Layton, he of the downtown food-cart Bite Me Gourmet Sausage.

Immediately recognizable by his glasses, ball cap and full, graying beard, Layton originally planned to roll his cart down to the high

— bryce@csindy.com

Generous portions

Multiple food providers displayed great heart and community involvement this past week, offering such gifts as free meals to evacuees, firefighters and police. While "Unto others" on p. 26 mentions many of them, there are others that range from Tucanos Brazilian Grill to Ranch Foods Direct to Italco Food Products (out of Denver).

We're sure that other providers and people have pitched in, too, without getting the recognition they deserve. So we invite readers to post a note of thanks to anyone in the food community who contributed food, time, money or other help, as a comment to this column or a reader review at csindy.com.

Also, we want to mention a benefit at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 4, at **Front Range Barbeque** (2330 W. Colorado Ave., frbbq.com): It features music from Grass It Up (including *Indy* employee David Jeffrey) and Carrie Nation & the Speakeasy. Plus the good folks at Bristol Brewing Co. have dropped off a couple kegs, so beer will be available via donation. (Reach deep, friends.) Those funds, and a portion of the restaurant's food-sale proceeds, will go toward the Waldo Canyon Fire Victim Assistance Fund.

Simply Marr-velous

We told you in June 20's *Indy* about how **Her Story Café** (2356 S. Academy Blvd., herstorycafe.com) owner Liz Rosenbaum names her menu items after inspiring women. In response to the Waldo Canyon Fire, Rosenbaum recently created the Jerri Marr Sandwich Platter, in honor of the Forest Service supervisor who's been key to local media briefings and a familiar face in people's homes this past week.

The \$10 plate for two includes half portions of three sandwiches from the menu plus two sides. "The trial and feedback has been amazing," reads a note on the café's Facebook page, "... so we had to give it an amazing name."

À la carte

- According to the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*, **The Candy Bar**, "a 1950s-style candy store," should open sometime this week at 124 N. Tejon St., the former Johannes Hunter Jewelers spot. Owner Beni Levi also operates My Candy inside the Citadel mall. The expansion plans to offer "natural candies," popcorn and gift items such as stuffed animals.

- **El Tamale Loco** appears to have closed at 26 S. Wahsatch Ave.

- Chef Dan Bartlett is offering a free "How to Prepare a Delicious Three-Course Meal" class from 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 7, at Colorado Coffee Merchants (302 E. Fillmore St., 473-8878). Reservations are required to see Bartlett demo a pear salad, skirt steak and tiramisu.

— **Matthew Schniper**

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Dine&Dash

Quick takes on food and drink



Coquette's Bistro & Bakery

915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com

From the start, Coquette has acted as a fun bastion of cool on the main strip of Manitou Springs. Its recently expanded menu is equally enticing, with bits that originate in-house — sauces, dips and even smoked meats — popping up all over.

Almost hidden among the new items, which include seared duck breast and chicken piccata, is Coquette's humble **burger** (\$10). And it's a near masterpiece of beef and bread. The meat comes from Ranch Foods Direct, and though ours was cooked a little too hard — considering the gluten-free bun is more like a thin, dense biscuit — it sang with smoky flavor. The garlic-basil aioli is a sweet refrain, while the slices of Brie balance with ineffable creamy off-notes. Dessert should bring the stylish **Lavender Love** (\$9) crêpe — its thick chocolate mousse is irresistible. — **Bryce Crawford**



The Maté Factor

966 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-3235

The café's connection to the Twelve Tribes religious community is certainly in evidence, considering the bathroom's wallpaper of old newsletters and tracts, not to mention other reading material available throughout. But it doesn't drive the Maté Factor's vibe. Simplified, the Factor is like a food-serving minuscule village — lots of wood, leather and flute music, with booths turned into secluded pseudo-huts.

But let's talk about the **Deli Rose** (\$7.50), a great sandwich (not to mention a pretty good miniature pizza). Stacked with smoked turkey, pepper jack cheese, good tomato sauce (advertised as spicy, though not really), more tomatoes, and onions on a soft Vienna roll, it's a steaming mess of sweet and savory. Avoid to-go, for two reasons: It's too wet to stand up to more than a few minutes of sitting, and nothing this fun to eat should have to wait for consumption. — **Bryce Crawford**



Stagecoach Inn

702 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9400, stagecoachinn.com

On the gorgeous, creek-side covered patio I had no idea Stagecoach had, underneath a striped awning lined with white lights, family dinner came to me in the form of the **stuffed steak** (\$19.98). Recommended by our server as the restaurant's signature dish, the sirloin is butterflied and filled with grilled mushrooms, Swiss cheese, a moist sage-bread stuffing and some house garlic-herb sauce, then topped with more mushrooms and plump, lightly grilled red onions. (Included were an OK baked potato and standard steamed veggies, but this thing's prodigious enough to make any side superfluous.)

Basically, it's comfort food in a nice, little rustic spot adorned with wagon wheels, horseshoe coat hangers, a stone fireplace, wooden pitchforks and an iron stove. All told, the only disappointment is that the meat's sourced from Sysco. — **Bryce Crawford**

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MARTINI BAR



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Film

Spider bites

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13)

By Scott Renshaw

I'm sure people will argue that *The Amazing Spider-Man* should be evaluated on its own merits, as a work separate from the legacy of Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* films over the last decade. And I respectfully ask — after I catch my breath from the hysterical laughter — “You’re joking, right?”

once again is bitten by a mutant spider that bestows upon him strength, agility and the ability to climb up walls; once again, he learns the importance of taking responsibility when his self-absorption indirectly results in the death of his beloved Uncle Ben (Martin Sheen).

Other details get a tweaking: a return to the comic books’ mechanical web shooters created by Peter; details about secret research work by Peter’s father (Campbell Scott) that may have led to his death; Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone) taking over the romantic interest role; Aunt May (Sally Field) having far too little gray hair.

But it’s not about the details, however many of them seem like minor improvements versus minor steps backward. It’s about the big things, like the casting of your hero. Garfield never once feels remotely right as Peter Parker, whose evolution — from bully-bait, to cocky bully himself, to hero who views

Good film performances are often found in the editing room as much as they’re found on camera, and there are precious few moments here when director Marc Webb allows his performances to breathe long enough for any emotional connections to develop. The one notable exception — a lovely scene in which Peter struggles with whether or not to tell Gwen his secret — only serves to emphasize how miserably the rest of the film fails in the same regard.

The greatest concern of many fanboys coming into *Amazing Spider-Man* was that Webb was a director whose only previous feature, 2009’s charming (*500*) *Days of Summer*, provided no indication that he could handle large-scale action sequences. Surprisingly, that’s one of the few things the film actually gets right, providing a few nifty battles between Spider-Man and his nemesis, a scientist named Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans), whose experimental serum transforms him into The Lizard.

But however memorable Raimi’s battle scenes may have been, his *Spider-Man* movies weren’t brilliant because of what they achieved technically. They were case studies in perfect tone: understanding how to give a story full of digital effects a huge human heart and an understanding of something being at stake for its characters.

By the time *The Amazing Spider-Man* reaches its excruciating final line of dialogue — one that suggests Peter has learned absolutely nothing and renders all that has gone before, a consequence-free trifle — it’s clear that nobody here really grasped why those Raimi *Spider-Man* tales were great. They gave you something that stuck with you, not something the studio is hoping you’ve forgotten by the time they decide to make another one.

— scene@csindy.com



A few more nods back to the comic books is nice, but it won't help the big picture: This Peter Parker never quite feels right.

Leave aside for a moment the cynical reality that Sony had to make this movie sooner rather than later, in order to preserve its rights to the character after Disney’s deal to buy Marvel Comics. The fact remains that we are not even a generation removed from one of the great pop-culture one-two punches in blockbuster history (I’m pretending that *Spider-Man 3* never happened). We saw what a pretty-close-to-perfect *Spider-Man* movie looks like. We know that it’s possible. And because we know these things, how is it possible to look at *The Amazing Spider-Man* and not recognize how much it lacks?

In the first place, it was borderline nuts to start all over with another origin of the character. Nerdy high school student Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield)

his powers as bearing a burden — defines the character.

He simply seems lost most of the time, unable to convey the way Tobey Maguire could the exuberance of discovering his powers or the naked adoration for his lady love that could be his undoing. While Stone’s characteristic charms make her a welcome addition, she’s playing a relationship with one confused partner.

In both Garfield and Stone’s defense, that’s probably because *The Amazing Spider-Man* feels as though its three credited editors were working on separate movies without talking to one another. Chunks of crucial exposition appear to be missing, providing no true anchor to the relationships and no natural build-up to the big action sequences.

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Film

When vacations attack

To Rome With Love (R)

By Jonathan Kiefer

For some of us, Woody Allen could film the phone book and we'd find pleasure in it: How nice all those listings might look in his signature white-on-black Windsor typeface. Poignancy, too: The phone book, like the Woody Allen movie, doesn't seem as useful to as many people as it once did.

mutated magical-realist territory before, as the wisecracking apparition of an affectionate ex-lover visible only to Mia Farrow in Allen's *Alice*. Certainly he comports himself more casually than the younger American actors here, who nearly choke on Allen's generationally anachronistic dialogue.

The Italians, and Cruz, suffer mild

translation losses too, although it's also clear that Benigni hasn't had this much fun pulling off a Roman riff since he played the compulsively confessional taxi driver in *Night on Earth*.

The aspiration to work with Allen has become automatic among contemporary actors, who

reportedly do so on the condition that they see only those portions of script in which their characters appear. The risk of such auteurist dominion is that all big-picture views, then, are privileged and purposely myopic: An assistant director deals with production scheduling, not narrative consistency; a script supervisor monitors only the minutiae of continuity between takes; and an editor's efforts necessarily aim for Allen's final approval.

Meanwhile, keeping busy in front of the camera as well as behind it leaves Allen too distracted to tidy up expositional false starts and loose ends, not to mention meager ideas and misfired jokes. It shouldn't be a problem for a filmmaker with so much experience, but Allen has a way of making seniority seem like complacency.

So was the title change his idea? For a while this movie went by *The Bop Decameron*, and there is that brisk tempo and sometimes ragged harmony. Somebody managed at least one clarifying insight: Just get the word "Rome" in there and wait at the bank. Of course he'll get complaints for being out of touch, even in a season whose other offerings include a guy who's part spider, a guy with a talking Teddy bear, and Tyler Perry in fat-suit drag.

Anyway, the routines are merely perpetual. It's the city that's eternal.

— scene@csindy.com



Even a smokin' Penélope Cruz is not sufficient to save a film determined to mine the underbelly of complacency.

But after a bracing *Midnight in Paris*, he's off hurriedly, *To Rome With Love*. This film faintly tingles with unfocused quasi-recollections of earlier movies and motifs. At times it even seems vaguely demented, and might be a test to determine whether we'll stand politely by as Allen finally descends, doddering, into the void.

At other times, though, it's invitingly dreamy. This is Fellini country, after all. The tales, very loosely interwoven, are these:

Beset one morning by a random mob of paparazzi, a middle-class Roman everyman and self-described schmuck (Roberto Benigni) becomes suddenly famous for no apparent reason. Getting to know the fiancé (Flavio Parenti) of their daughter (Alison Pill), a retired American opera director (Allen) and his psychiatrist wife (Judy Davis) discover the fiancé's mortician father (Fabio Armiliato) to be a world-class tenor — who can only sing in the shower. Honeymooning provincial newlyweds (Alessandro Tiberi, Alessandra Mastronardi) find themselves separated by the respective temptations of a call girl (Penélope Cruz) and a movie star (Antonio Albanese). An American architect (Alec Baldwin) revisits bittersweet memories of youthful romantic missteps, as evidently replayed before his eyes by Jesse Eisenberg, Greta Gerwig and Ellen Page.

Baldwin seems the most at ease, maybe from having been in similarly

CineFiles

Bullhead (R)



Image Entertainment
Bullhead has all the marks of a first feature (by writer-director Michael Roskam), including convoluted plotting and an inability to navigate silence. But it contains such a white-hot flame in the form of tortured protagonist Jacky Vanmarsenille (Matthias Schoenaerts) that you understand its Oscar nomination last year for Best Foreign Film. The way Schoenaerts' physicality informs his performance as a cattle farmer hooked on the growth hormones meant for his herd demonstrates the film's somewhat successful commitment to making something more substantial than another *Raging Bull* knockoff. Jacky smolders with rage, but I would've loved to spend more time exploring the beast within than Flemish beef industry politics. — **Justin Strout**

Mac & Devin Go to High School (R)



Anchor Bay Home Entertainment
To call this weed comedy "lazy" is not much of a criticism, because what stoner comedies in the past decade aren't lazy? After *Half Baked* and *Friday*, it seems like, true to the pothead stereotype, kush-based filmmakers just gave up and started shooting shoddy films that are about as useful as a burnt-out roach of skunk. The worst of the lot is this recent misfire starring Snoop Dogg and weak-ass tween rapper Wiz Khalifa. Wiz is a high-school nerd who is introduced to Mary Jane by Snoop, so he forgoes his education completely to get high, have sex with strippers and ... not much else. It's not funny, it's not entertaining and it's the cinematic equivalent of being sold an ounce of oregano. — **Louis Fowler**

Wilfred: The Complete First Season (NR)



20th Century Fox Home Entertainment
Wilfred has an interesting premise: Suicidal sad-sack Elijah Wood tries to make nice with the purty next-door neighbor by watching her dog during the day — only he sees the perverted pooch as a grown Australian man in a dog costume who chugs beer, sucks down bong hits and humps everything with a pair of breasts. *Wilfred* has its moments, but most of the series is a total bore, featuring one supposedly edgy sitcom device after another. It's another show that mistakes dick jokes as a constant stream of unparalleled hilarity. It's just another case of been-there, done-that in this era of Seth Macfarlane-worshipping, low-brow pseudo-comedy. I say: bad dog. — **Louis Fowler**

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13)				
Brave (PG)				
Magic Mike (R)				
Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13)				
To Rome With Love				
KEY	Brilliant	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Lame

Return of the Procussions

Acclaimed hip-hop ex-pats get back to their 719 roots

By Bill Forman

When Jason “Mr. J.” Medeiros and his longtime collaborator Stro booked their upcoming Procussions reunion shows in Colorado, one of the last things they were expecting was for all hell to break loose in their former hometown.

But Colorado Springs was definitely on Medeiros’ mind last Wednesday when he posted the link to a free, Stro-produced single called “The Rockies.” “Hope it lifts some 719 heads,” the Los Angeles-based emcee/songwriter wrote on his Facebook page.

Arguably the best-known hip-hop act to come out of Colorado Springs, the Procussions relocated to Los Angeles and, in 2006, released their sophomore album, *5 Sparrows for 2 Cents*, on Sony’s Rawkus imprint. A national tour as opening act for A Tribe Called Quest — whose music was a profound influence on the group — soon followed, as did Medeiros’ first solo album, which was also released on Rawkus. In 2008, after 10 years together, the Procussions went on indefinite hiatus.

For this week’s reunion shows in Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Denver, the two performers will be joined onstage by Springs-based turntablist and producer Boonie Mayfield, whose own videos have garnered more than 5 million views.

Last Thursday, I spoke with Medeiros about “The Rockies,” the Waldo Canyon Fire, and the prospects for a new Procussions album.

Indy: You uploaded “The Rockies” single just yesterday. Is that something you’d been working on for a while, or did it all just come together in the last few days?

J. Medeiros: No, we’d been working on it for a while. We wanted to make a song to promote the shows, and I think maybe there’s some providence involved, who knows? But we got a little confused as to whether or not we *should* have put it out because, for the small number of people who were paying attention, we didn’t want

to seem opportunistic. Like, there’s a catastrophe going on and so you wanna sell a song.

Indy: I was in L.A. during the Rodney King uprising, and I remember driving down the street

and hearing Tom Petty’s “Peace in L.A.” come on the radio. I have to admit it *did* feel kind of opportunistic. But then again, he’s a guy who makes huge paychecks, and you’re putting it out as a free download for friends and fans.

JM: Yeah, I also struggled with putting it out because, if you listen to the song, it doesn’t necessarily focus on the positive ...

Indy: I think you can leave the word “necessarily” out of that. It just doesn’t.

JM: No, it really doesn’t. [Laughs.] If you listen to the second verse — I don’t think people catch it — but there’s a little Ted Haggard in there. [“Drop knee believer redeem your demeanor / Run rhymes ’cos sometimes the green is greener / When you see the whole scene / Through the sheen of a screen door.”] And if you listen to the *first* verse, you know, it mentions friends and people you’ve lost.

You know, I live in Los Angeles, I’ve been here for 10 years, and you hear stories from friends who went to school in Belmont, Echo Park, East L.A. and stuff — and they’re not that much different from what I grew up with living in Widefield and Security. You’re in junior high school trying to figure out if you need to join a gang or not. But then at the same time, you’re still driving by pastures and having problems with cows in the road.

Indy: Were all four of the original Procussions from here, or did you kind of converge on the place?

JM: I was born in Colorado Springs. Rez was born there. Stro’s a military kid, he spent his school years there. And Quintron was born there.

Indy: I know the shows you’re doing out here are with you and Stro. What’s Rez doing now?

JM: Rez is a full-time photographer now. When we started the group, he was always interested in photos and Web design and everything. So he’s out in L.A. doing photos.

Indy: And Quintron, is he doing OK these days?

JM: You know he has multiple sclerosis, and it struck him really hard and quickly. In a year, he was confined to a wheelchair, but since then he’s done some creative stuff. He graduated from college — you know, when it would be in remission, he’d be up and down and still went to school. He’s alive now and



J. Medeiros released a new track about his old hometown last week: “If you listen to the song, it doesn’t necessarily focus on the positive.”

he’s pushing, but it’s a difficult disease, for sure.

Indy: What was it like for you following what was going on here with the fire, especially on Tuesday night?

JM: Well, you know, I talked to all my friends. My good friends and family are still in Colorado, so when we do all our mastering and our artwork, everything’s in Colorado. So I think I feel as close as you can, being, you know, a thousand miles away.

People would call me and they’re like, “Dude, the Flying W Ranch is *done*.” It’s sad when you think about all the times we went there. I just got married this year and my wife’s French, and I wanted to treat her to the real Colorado experience. And one of the first things that came to my mind was the Flying W Ranch. I’m like, “You gotta go there, you can sit there and see the cow and eat beef!” Yeah, even looking at the photos, it’s still hard to get how massive [the fire] is.

Indy: I remember when I interviewed [Canadian rapper] Shad — who was featured on your “Pale Blue Dot” single and also beat out Drake for the Juno Prize last year — he told me how important the Pharcyde was to his musical development. Is there someone like that for you?

JM: Of course, the Procussions’ biggest influence were A Tribe Called Quest. And we were really blessed to have been picked to go out with them on their first comeback tour.

But I think for me personally, as far as rappers go, it’s Black Thought. And if I had to reach back further, then I would say Kool G Rap was probably the strongest influence on syllable word-play, you know, that machine-gun-fire rap style, still staying extremely relevant and bordering on being socially conscious rap, but with-

out the arrogance. And he did it with a rhythm that was impeccable. Even with a *lisp*, this dude was still impeccable.

Indy: When did you last play Colorado Springs, and what prompted this particular gig?

JM: As the Procussions, the last time we played there was 2006.

Indy: And so why now?

JM: We had a couple offers, and we’ve both got plenty of friends and family there who’ve been asking us to come out and play. And once we announced that we’re gonna do a show, there were a lot of people who seemed really excited. And not just there, you know, I mentioned it on Facebook and we’ve had people from Belgium and Australia, Paris and London, people in Florida and L.A., they were all commenting. And so we’re wondering if this is something that the Procussions need to look at, and possibly do another album. If the sustained support is there, then I think it’s something that’s really possible.

Indy: You and Stro already work on each other’s records to a degree. How would it differ if you did do something under the Procussions name?

JM: It would be completely different, definitely. When I’m working as Mr. J. Medeiros with Stro doing the production, I focus more on storytelling. He tells me I’m depressing. [Laughs.] I don’t know, I guess it is a little depressing. I enjoy it, though, you know?

But as the Procussions, we focus on a *show*. We focus on having a lot more energy. We focus a *lot* on the tracks sounding really hard and heavy. We focus on the things that we can only do with both of us at the wheel.

— bill@csindy.com

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AudioFile

Unstrung heroes

String Cheese Incident stretches its musical imagination

By Chris Parker

For the String Cheese Incident, it's always been about keeping it fresh. So it was only natural that after a decade of releasing music, Colorado's popular roots-jam act took a break in 2006.

er to Galactic than the progressive jamgrass of Yonder Mountain String Band. Since their return two years ago, the group has been moving to synthesize their far-flung styles into one sound that encompasses all their influences.

Bassist Keith Moseley says the songs frequently continue to evolve: "It may have been something that was originally conceived as a bluegrass tune or an Americana roots rocker. There's room maybe to add some electronic beats to this. Push it into the next genre somehow."

The hiatus may have hastened this transition. Spending so much time away, they've had to relearn parts in songs, and are coming at them from a new perspective. "You can kind of walk back into it and feel fresh in hearing it, like, oh, that part never works. How come I never heard that before?" explains Hollingsworth.

In the process of relearning the songs, many are being renovated and modernized, something not every fan is excited about, but the band isn't inclined to sit still. "There have been some make-overs for sure. I think it's OK," says the keyboardist. "The fans are very open and we're open and always experimenting. We're even doing a Bollywood song now."

"You can't rest on your laurels in this band. You have to be on top of your game," adds Moseley. "We build in all this practice time because when we get up there, the idea is to make magic together."

Current plans are for the band to head back into the studio early next year for an album that combines studio tracks with live recordings.

"The new tracks we're working on, the directions are pretty strange," admits Hollingsworth. "We are doing a lot of fiddle-based songs with some electronic music — but I wouldn't say we are going in any new direction that we haven't already gone in."

Moseley just sees it as part of their continued evolution.

"We've had our moments of being stuck in wishy-washy jams here and there, but I think as we mature as musicians and players, our music is becoming more accessible than ever," he says. "We all really appreciate a good song, a good hook and a good melody. That's really become more important to us as we've evolved."

— scene@csindy.com



Incidents: 'We've had our moments of being stuck in wishy-washy jams here and there.'

"When Bill [Nershi, guitarist] was ready to take a break, at first we were resisting, and then we realized it was probably the best thing for all of us," says keyboardist Kyle Hollingsworth.

Like many bands that build a huge grassroots following, the ancillary enterprises and activities around such a traveling musical phenomenon began to weigh down the main enterprise.

"We felt like we were being overwhelmed by everything that was happening," he says. "A travel company, a record company. We were doing everything. It was exciting when we got back to slim some things down and really focus more on the music."

The new attitude has already rewarded fans with the commensurately upbeat tune, "Can't Wait Another Day." Their first new track in seven years is a burbling, hook-laden number that seems to simultaneously reference the albums *Graceland* and *American Beauty*,

and reggae icons Sly and Robbie.

Though initially based in bluegrass, the band has traveled the stylistic globe, increasingly incorporating electronics and moving closer

CAPSULE

The String Cheese Incident

Thursday-Saturday, July 5-7, 7:30 p.m.

Red Rocks Amphitheatre, 18300 W. Alameda Pkwy., Morrison

Tickets: \$49.95, all ages; redrocksonline.com, 720/865-2494

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AudioFile

Don't fear the Slayer

Tom Araya takes a bashing and comes out thrashing

By Tom Lanham

Not much can turn the garrulous, gregarious rocker Tom Araya speechless. Except, perhaps, a touching ceremony staged specifically in his honor, like the one held a year ago in his provincial hometown of Viña Del Mar, Chile, where he was awarded the key to the city.

"I didn't know what to say — I just had a big shit-eating grin and kept saying, 'Thank you! Thank you!'" recalls the Grammy-winning Slayer frontman. "I was just humbled, because it's usually dignitaries or people of a certain stature who get that. So I was just really surprised that they were honoring me."

Later, during a local press conference, Araya studied his coveted key — which was actually a huge, ribbon-suspended medallion in the shape of a coin — and regained his trademark rapier wit with reporters. "They were

asking me all kinds of questions on how I felt about the event, and I said, 'Yeah, they'll give me the keys to the city. But as soon as they do, they'll change the locks!'"

The quip garnered riotous laughter and

a round of applause. *That* was the gallows-humored speed metal maven that everyone was expecting, the Poe-spectral songwriter whose favorite subject — ever since Slayer's definitive third outing *Reign in Blood* set the mood back in '86 — is usually serial killers and other dark doings. *World Painted Blood*, their recent 10th set, follows similarly funereal suit, in thrash-metal piledrivers like "Snuff," "Hate Worldwide," and "Public Display of Dismemberment."

In recent years, Araya has taken a bit of a thrashing himself. Right after undergoing gall bladder surgery a few years ago, he was back in the hospital again, this time for something far more serious. Midway through a 2009 tour of Japan, Araya's bandmates pulled him aside to ask what was wrong — he was constantly rubbing his left elbow, almost absentmindedly. "And then it hit me — it *hurts*," he remembers of the first warning sign. "My index, middle finger and thumb were all numb on my left arm, and there was one spot that didn't even respond to electric shock — the muscle had started to atrophy. And when they did the MRI, they could tell I had a pinched nerve, and they had to go in there and space out my vertebrae again."

Then came a second protruding disc in Araya's lower back, all brought on by 30 years of headbanging in con-



Araya: 'I no longer headbang.'

cert. No joke, he swears. "So I no longer headbang — I don't wanna ruin or damage the cartilage to what's left of my neck." Out of a traditional weightlifter's belt, his brother fashioned a special support for his bass. "It sits on my hips, the bass sits right in front on a little hook, and there's no weight on my shoulders," he explains. "It's actually very comfortable."

Once Slayer finishes this summer's Mayhem Festival, the band will return to work on its 11th, which Araya sees as a probable lyrical departure. "A lot of my stuff lately is more politically oriented, as far as what's going on around the world, or here in the States," says Araya. "They're trying to put fear into everyone to make a world money system, and they're using fear for all kinds of stuff. So I think you'll see a lot of that kind of thing in the new songwriting." He pauses, then laughs. "Uhh, unless I come across a really cool serial killer and write him! Or her ..."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Metal Mayhem Tour, with Slayer, Slipknot, Motörhead, Anthrax, As I Lay Dying, Asking Alexandria, The Devil Wears Prada, and others

Sunday, July 8, 1:30 p.m.

Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, 6350 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Englewood

Tickets: \$25 and up; livenation.com, 303/220-7000.

SoundAdvice

Bobby Womack

The Bravest Man in the Universe

XL Recordings

File next to: Solomon Burke, Wilson Pickett
Soul legend Womack hooks up with Blur and Gorillaz main-man Damon Albarn and XL Records owner-producer Richard Russell for this unexpected "comeback." Unlike many such projects, it defies the musty norm of venerated artists retreading a well-worn past. Instead, the purveyor of classic hits like "Lookin' for a Love" and "Across 110th Street" sets his rugged voice against Albarn's keyboards and Russell's beats, creating a mix of vintage soul and modern electronics. It's a compelling, atmospheric album that still finds Womack at the forefront, whether on the regretful "Please Forgive My Heart" or a team-up with Lana Del Ray on "Daylo Reflection" (where she sounds better than on her own record). The soulman also rants at televangelists on "If There Wasn't Something There," and goes full-on gospel with "Jubilee," a fitting closer to his best set of music since the '80s. — **L. Kent Wolgamott**

Peaking Lights

Lucifer

Mexican Summer

File next to: Pocahaunted, Mi Ami
Dub occasionally sounds so austere that it gives you a heady headache. Props, therefore, to Peaking Lights of Madison, Wis., for transcending that tendency, and the ponderousness that often besets the other genre they draw heavily from: indie electronica. Like 2011's *936*, this third album *Lucifer* features Indra Dunis' jaded (stoned?) vocals floating somewhere above husband Aaron Coyes' impossibly perfect blend of lo-fi analog sounds and digital sonic subterfuge. From post-minimalist looping ("Beautiful Son") to vaguely Afropoppy jams ("Live Love") to, well, straight-up dub ("Cosmic Tides," "LO HI") — all are woozily repetitive without leaning on repetition as a stylistic crutch. The melodies are so pristine that it feels good hearing them over and over again. More than ever, Peaking Lights seem in touch with the same mystical impulse behind dub, Krautrock and all things grooving. — **Wyatt Miller**

Delta Rae

Carry the Fire

Sire/Warner Bros.

File next to: Little Big Town, Fleetwood Mac
Delta Rae, a six-piece, four-vocalist outfit from North Carolina, ironically is still trying to find its voice on *Carry the Fire*. The band has the advantage of being backed by Sire Records co-founder Seymour Stein, who played a key role in careers ranging from the Ramones to Madonna. Stein has likened the band to a kind of American version of Mumford & Sons, but one could equate Delta Rae's harmony-filled pop with a latter-day Fleetwood Mac. For good measure, the band throws in a strong dose of rootsy Americana, plus some soul and gospel. The latter provides the album's best moment with the powerful call-and-response track "Bottom of the River." The rest is comparatively sedate, with traded-off lead vocals, harmonies and arrangements that aren't far from mainstream country. Not a bad thing, really, but not particularly exciting. — **L. Kent Wolgamott**



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TONY LUCCA (FROM THE TV SHOW THE VOICE)
OCT 28 (ON SALE NOW)

Fri, Jul. 6th - 7:30pm

THE FIELD THE OCEAN
FEATURING: TAKE IT TO 88, BE BRAVE, REGRET NIGHT, PLACES

Sat, Jul. 7th - 7:00pm

SHOCKWAVE FESTIVAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS
FEAT: AESTHETIC DELIRIUM, VITAL MALICE, OMNYM, RESTORE ALL VENGEANCE, AMONG TREASON

Wed, Jul. 11th - 8:00pm

THE KNUX
FEATURING: FIDEL REDSTAR, JAVOIN & STONEY BERTZ

Thu, Jul. 12th - 7:00pm

VALIENT THORR
FEAT: ROYAL THUNDER, THE KICK ASS, NIGHT OF THE LIVING SHRED

Fri, Jul. 13th - 7:00pm

PRESENTED BY KIRO 94.3
HALESTORM
FEATURING: NEW MEDICINE, EMPHATIC

Mon, Jul. 16th - 8:00pm

BLACK JOE LEWIS & THE HONEYBEARS
FEATURING: SPECIAL GUESTS

Tue, Jul. 17th - 7:00pm

PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
AUTHORITY ZERO
FEATURING: VERSUS THE WORLD, MURDER HAT, HEART & SOUL RADIO

Wed, Jul. 18th - 7:00pm

PRESENTED BY KIRO 94.3
THE DREAMING (FEAT. STABBING WESTWARD LEAD SINGER CHRISTOPHER HALL WITH SARGENT AVENUE

Fri, Jul. 20th - 7:30pm

FROM ASHES WE RISE
FEATURING: SPECIAL GUESTS

Sat, Jul. 21st - 7:30pm

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17 ENTS
FEAT: NATA PROOF, BIG CHEEZ & ETC, PROPHECY, KILLIN' RATHER & WIKED C, YUNG T, RAYZOR BLADE

Wed, Jul. 25th - 7:30pm

PRESENTED BY KIRO 94.3
RED LINE CHEMISTRY
FEATURING: OTHERWISE, CRUZ

Fri, Jul. 27th - 7:30pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG 2 - OTEP
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AUG 16 - BANDYANIMATE
AUG 29 - EYES SET TO KILL
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SEP 29 - TOMORROW'S BAD SEEDS

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In the aftermath of disaster, healing is a slow process, one that's measured not so much in days and weeks as it is in months and years. But as New Orleans proved in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it can in fact be accom-

emerged from the ashes of the **Waldo Canyon Fire**, and that's local singer-songwriter **Chuck Snow's** "Whichever Way the Wind Blows."

If, like many of us, you've been holding back tears since the fires started, this will take care of that. It's a genuinely great song, poetically moving, as gracefully dignified as its subject matter warrants:

*Heavenly light shine down on me
Down here it's too dark to see*

*My whole world is
burning and I've only
my soul*

*To carry me
through whichever
way the wind blows*

I'm not exaggerating when I say this song can stand alongside **Steve Earle** and **Bruce Springsteen's** most moving ballads. You can judge for yourself by going to tinyurl.com/whicheverway.

There you'll find the song and accompanying video, both of which were uploaded this past Saturday. You'll also find a link where you can purchase a

download of the song for \$1.29. All proceeds benefit the **Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region**, which has taken in hundreds of pets during the course of this crisis.

Which brings us to our next item, namely "**Community Rises**," the wildfire relief benefit concert taking place tonight, July 4, at the **World Arena**. In addition to performances by the **Fray** frontman **Isaac Slade**, the **Flying W**

Wranglers, **Michael Martin Murphey** and **Flash Cadillac**, the **Indy**-cosponsored event will include a segment with images by photographer **Bryan Oller** (who frequently shoots for this paper), set to the aforementioned **Chuck Snow** song.

While tickets were gone within 48 hours of the concert's announcement, you can still catch the simulcast on virtually every local media outlet, many of which will also be streaming the event live. Viewers and attendees will have the opportunity to make monetary donations to the **Waldo Canyon Fire Victim Assistance Fund**, while **Care**

& Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado will be on site, accepting food donations.

Meanwhile, for those of you who are ticketless but eager to get out of the house, there are numerous July 4 fundraisers for wildfire relief efforts around town: **Carrie Nation & the Speakeasy** will be performing with **Grass It Up** at a 7 p.m. **Front Range Barbeque** show. **Bryant Jones**, **Ben Johnson**, **Vanessa White** and **Chuck Binkowski** will be playing at **Marika's** starting at noon. And the "**R&B and Hip-Hop for Hope**" benefit featuring

Kopesetik Soul, **Musik Theory**, **Terrill Paul** and **Jordan Craft** will take place at **Stargazers** beginning at 6:30.

And finally, just a quick reminder to get on over to **csindy.com** and cast your ballot for the **Indy Music Awards** between now and the July 13 cutoff. Winning acts will perform at this year's **Indy Music Awards Festival** in September, so make sure your favorites are among them.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/Indyreverb.



The Fray's frontman Isaac Slade (left) is among performers who will be playing the July 4 wildfire relief benefit at the World Arena.

plished, given enough time to grieve, and enough energy and dedication to rebuild.

And then there's music. Personally, I don't remember finding solace in any of the songs written in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, although I guess the **Charlie Daniels Band's** "This Ain't No Rag It's a Flag" may have done it for somebody. But I can vouch for the value of one song that

Playing Around

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, THROUGH TUESDAY, JULY 10

Wednesday 07/04

Dale Street Café, Cold Fever (jazz), 6 p.m.
Front Range, Grass It Up, Carrie Nation & the Speakeasy (bluegrass), 7:30 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, DJ Brandon Lee (hip-hop), 8 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, Bob Tudor (jazz), 7 p.m.
Oakley's, D Day Invasion (rock/pop), 5 p.m.
Park East Restaurant, The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz), 6:30 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, Blues Jamm, with

99% (blues), 7 p.m.
Speedtrap, Open Mic (acoustic), 7:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, Colorado Springs Big Jazz Band (jazz), 6 p.m.
Twisted Knickers, Bluegrass Jam with Banjo Bill (bluegrass), 7 p.m.
Zodiac, '80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance), 9 p.m.

Thursday 07/05

Adam's Mountain, Bud Ford (acoustic), 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, Open Mic with Caleb and James (acoustic), 9 p.m.
Back East, Dueling Pianos (acoustic), 8 p.m.
Benny's, Open Jam/Mic with The Jerry

Roskin Band, 8 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, Mike Nelson (blues), 6 p.m.
Cucuru, Acoustic Jam Open Mic (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Holy Cow, Jay-Koh (rock/pop), 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, Brian Clancy (world), 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, Craig Walter (acoustic), 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, Funk Row Seat (rock/pop), 9 p.m.
Mill Hill Saloon, Three of a Kind (rock/pop), 7 p.m.
Pale Horse, Ladies Night, feat. DJ Fade (dance), 9 p.m.
The Pantry, Ted Newman (acoustic), 5:30 p.m.

Park East Restaurant, Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz), 6:30 p.m.
Rasta King, Robby Red Locks & the Reggae Time Machine (world), 7 p.m.
Rico's, Susan Rissman, John Wise and Tim Zahn (jazz), 6:30 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, Open Mic (acoustic), 8 p.m.
Stargazers, Open Mic Night with Lobo and Sheryl Loggins (rock/pop), 7 p.m., \$5, free for participating musicians.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop), 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, DJ Manyical (dance), 9 p.m.

Friday 07/06

Adam's Mountain, Bud Ford (acoustic), 9 a.m.
Benny's, VCR Trio (rock/pop), 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, The Field The Ocean, Be Brave, Regret Night (rock/pop), 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$7.
Dale Street Café, Johnny Angel (jazz), 6 p.m.
Fujiyama, Mistura Bela (world), 7 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, Big Paddy (world), 9:30 p.m.
Kasey's, Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B), 9 p.m.
The Keg, Arch Hooks (R&B), 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, Foster, The Magenta Incident, We Are Not a Glum Lot (rock/pop), 7 p.m., \$5-\$8.

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Cafe, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 264-6161
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
BierWerks Brewery, 121 E. Midland Ave., Woodland

Park, 686-8100
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Casa Bistecca, 326 S. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/543-1989
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Dale Street Café, 115 E. Dale St., 578-9898
Dragon's Lair, 430 S. Circle

Drive, 473-3900
Dutch Mill Tavern, 503 W. Colorado Ave., 471-3370
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Holy Cow Pub & Grill, 5885 Stetson Hills Blvd., 465-1704
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E.

Boulder St., 635-8128
The Keg Lounge, 730 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9531
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W.

Colorado Ave., 633-0583
Mill Hill Saloon, 1668 S. 21st St., 632-6932
Oakley's Café & Bistro at Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Drive, 481-6000
Pale Horse Bar and Lounge, 204 N. Union Blvd., 465-2005
The Pantry Restaurant, 6980 Lake St., Green Mountain Falls, 684-9018
Park East Restaurant, 720

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Margarita at PineCreek, Swallowtail World Music (world), 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, Mad Dog & the Smokin' J's (rock/pop), 9 p.m.
The Pantry, Rich Currier (acoustic), 6 p.m.
Penrose Room, Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz), 6:30 p.m.
Red Martini, Barry Laluna (jazz), 8 p.m.
Rico's, Adam Gang Jazz Trio (jazz), 7:30 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, Fatty Lumpkin (world), 8 p.m.
The Sky Box Lounge, Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Sonterra, John Stone (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Stargazers, Tribe (R&B), 8 p.m.
Steaksmith, The Other Band (country), 7 p.m.
Sunshine Studios, Telling False Time, Surviving the Apocalypse, Here Lies the Difference (metal), 6:30 p.m., \$7.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop), 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, Cirque Du DeeJay (dance), 9 p.m.
Townhouse Lounge, Lisa McCall (blues), 9 p.m.
Union Station, 99 Bottles, Split Resistance, O.S.L., Profit Motiv (hard-core), 8 p.m.
V Bar, DJ Gravity (dance), 9 p.m.
Venue 515, Edith Makes a Paper Chain (folk), 8 p.m., \$5.
Zodiac, Honor Amongst Thieves, The A-Holes, The Mostly Don'ts (rock/pop), 9 p.m., \$5.

Saturday 07/07

Benny's, VCR Trio (rock/pop), 8 p.m.
BierWerks, Robby Red Locks (acoustic), 6 p.m., Robby Red Locks & The Reggae Time Machine (world), 7 p.m.
Black Sheep, Shockwave Festival Battle of the Bands, feat. Aesthetic Delirium, Vital Malice, Omnym (metal), 8 p.m., \$10.
Cucuru, Barbara Ernst, Luke Tripp (jazz), 7 p.m.
Dale Street Café, Johnny Angel (jazz), 6 p.m.
Dragon's Lair, Nightlife Summer Springs Bash 2012 (dance), 9 p.m., \$5.
Dutch Mill Tavern, All Ages Open Mic Night (acoustic), 8 p.m.
Front Range, Chauncy Crandall (folk), 8 p.m.
Fujiyama, DJ Ron Perry (jazz), 6 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, We Sold Our Souls (metal), 9 p.m.
The Pantry, Ted Newman (acoustic), 5:30 p.m.
Penrose Room, Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz), 6:30 p.m.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., The Constant Tourists (indie), 7 p.m.
Red Martini, Charlie Pendergraph (jazz), 8 p.m.
Rico's, Mango fan Django (indie), 7:30 p.m.
Ritz Grill, DJ Prominent (dance), 9:30 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, D-Day Invasion (blues), 4 p.m., Mason's Children (rock/pop), 8 p.m.

Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098
Rasta King Seafood Bar and Grill, 675 S. Circle Drive, 344-4447
Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522

Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
Shovelhead Saloon, 4130 U.S. Hwy. 85, 392-2665
The Silver Tongue Devil Saloon, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 684-2555
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
Sonterra Innovative South-

west Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Speedtrap, 84 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 488-2007
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Steaksmith, 3802 Maizeland Road, 596-9300
Sunbird, 230 Point of the Pines Drive, 598-8990

Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094
Thirsty's Tavern, 2028 Sheldon Ave., 444-8515
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou

Springs, 685-1085
Twisted Knickers Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 633-1400
Underground, 110 N. Nevada Ave., 578-7771
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 471-8622
Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059



Toronto indie dance band Young Empires come to Denver's hi-dive on July 7.

The B-52s and Squeeze, Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, Denver, July 4 • **Blues Traveler**, with Fitz & the Tantrums, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 4 • **The String Cheese Incident**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 5 • **Salvador Santana**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, July 8 • **Slipknot**, **Slayer**, **Motorhead**, Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, Englewood, July 8 • **The Beach Boys**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 9 • **Nancy Griffith**, with Greg Brown, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, July 11 • **The Knux**, Black Sheep, July 11 • **John Denver — The Tribute**, with the John Adams Band and Orchestra, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 12 • **Valent Thorr**, Black Sheep, July 12 • **Halestorm**, Black Sheep, July 13 • **Yanni**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 13 • **Brandi Carlile**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 14 • **O.A.R.**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 15 • **Volbeat**, Hellyeah, Iced Earth, Colorado Springs City Auditorium, July 15 • **Black Joe Lewis & The Honeybeats**, Black Sheep, July 16 • **Marc Cohn**, with Joan Osborne,

Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, July 16 • **Authority Zero**, Black Sheep, July 17 • **Chicago**, **The Doo-bie Brothers**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 17 • **Natalie Merchant**, with the Colorado Symphony, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, July 17 • **Emmylou Harris**, with Steve Martin, Arlo Guthrie, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 18 • **Blues Under the Bridge**, feat. Marcia Ball, Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials, July 21 • **Ray Wylie Hubbard**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, July 21 • **Al Green**, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, July 23 • **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**, with J Miller Band, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, July 23 • **James Taylor**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 23-24 • **One Direction**, Pepsi Center, Denver, July 24 • **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, July 25 • **Florence and the Machine**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 25 • **Avicii**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 26 • **The Music of Abba — Arrival From Sweden**, Pikes Peak Center, July 26, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 27 • **Cake**, **The Lum-**

ineers, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, July 28 • **Aerosmith**, Pepsi Center, Denver, Aug. 1 • **Kaskade**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 1 • **Meek Mill**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Aug. 2 • **Nicki Minaj**, Wells Fargo Theatre, Denver, Aug. 2 • **My Morning Jacket**, with Band of Horses, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 3-4 • **Neil Young & Crazy Horse**, with Alabama Shakes, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 5-6 • **Diana Krall**, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Aug. 6 • **Colbie Caillat**, Gavin DeGraw, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Aug. 7 • **Passion Pit**, **Justice**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 7 • **Kiss**, **Mötley Crüe**, Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, Englewood, Aug. 8 • **Jack White**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 8 • **Ladysmith Black Mambazo & The Johnny Clegg Band**, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Aug. 9 • **HAPA**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Aug. 10 • **Shawn Colvin** and **Loudon Wainwright**, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Aug. 10 • **Thievery Corporation**, **Beats Antique**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Aug. 10

Sonterra, John Stone (acoustic), 7 p.m.
Stargazers, Lobo Lenny & Fingers (rock/pop), 8 p.m., \$10.
Steaksmith, George Sisneros (rock/pop), 7 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop), 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse Lounge, Mike Nelson (blues), 9 p.m.
Union Station, The Procussions (hip-hop), 8 p.m.
V Bar, DJ Gravity (dance), 9 p.m.

Sunday 07/08

Ancient Mariner, The Storys (rock/pop), 6 p.m.
Front Range, Adams & Stilwagen (blues), 6:30 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, Traditional Irish Session (world), 3 p.m.
The Pantry, Ted Newman (acoustic), 5:30 p.m.
Silver Tongue Devil, Mike Maddux (acoustic), 2 p.m.
Stargazers, Salvador Santana (R&B), 6 p.m., \$25-\$30.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop), 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, SundayFunday with Nate-Starr (dance), 9:30 p.m.
Underground, Black Sundays (dance), 10 p.m.
Union Station, Acoustic Open Mic (acoustic), 8 p.m.
Zodiac, Mike Clark (rock/pop), 9 p.m., \$3.

Monday 07/09

Crystola Roadhouse, Rosalie and Mike (rock/pop), 5 p.m.
Marika's, The South Path Ramblers (rock/pop), 6:30 p.m.
Shovelhead Saloon, Shovelhead Blues Jam (blues), 7 p.m.
Zodiac, Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone, 9 p.m.

Tuesday 07/10

Adam's Mountain, Wayne Hamerstadt (acoustic), 6:30 p.m.
Casa Bistecca, Gary Bennett, The Impersonator Guy (rock/pop), 6 p.m.
Thirsty's Tavern, Jam Night (acoustic), 8 p.m.
Zodiac, Goth Nite hosted by DJ Johnny Coffin (rock/pop), 9 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES

First Presbyterian Church

Graham Baird and Jim Singleton, Co-Pastors

Sunday Services of Worship

Nevada at Bijou

8:20 & 9:45 a.m.

Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir

9:45 a.m.

Fellowship Hall, Contemporary

11:10 a.m.

Sanctuary, Contemporary

5:00 p.m.

Sanctuary, Contemplative

Nursery at All Services

884-6100

www.first-pres.org

Metropolitan Community Church
theinclusivechurch

This Sunday @ 10am:

July 8th
 Connecting with Rev. Karl Hand, from Sydney, AUS
 1102 S. 21st Street, 80904
www.ppmcc.org



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Sunday, July 8
 "God's Gift of Difference"
 Rev. Dr. Jacques Franklin preaches
 20 E. St. Vrain
 10am Service followed by
 Congregational Renewal Gathering
 (lunch served, childcare provided)
www.fcucc.org • 635-3549

Vista Grande Community Church
United Church of Christ
 Join us for Sunday Services @ 10am



July 8th
 "David becomes King"

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10
 Elizabeth Vincent preaching
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thespringschurch.com

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 Colorado Springs Independent at
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at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

WE'RE PLEASED TO LAUNCH THE



INDY MUSIC AWARDS & FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF THE TALENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MUSIC COMMUNITY.

Once again, we've drawn upon the expertise of local venue bookers, promoters and radio folks in order to compile a list of nominees reflecting both the depth and diversity of the local scene.

INDY Music AWARDS

TWENTY TWELVE

VOTE ONLINE AT CSINDY.COM OR

2012 NOMINEES

IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- AMERICANA
- BLUES
- COUNTRY/BUEGRASS
- COVERS
- DJ
- FOLK
- HIP-HOP (SOLO)
- HIP-HOP (DUO OR GROUP)
- INDIE ROCK
- JAZZ (SOLO)
- JAZZ (DUO OR GROUP)
- METAL/HARD ROCK
- PUNK
- R&B/FUNK/SOUL
- ALBUM
- VIDEO
- OUT-OF-AREA ARTIST

- WRITE-IN CATEGORIES
- PEOPLE'S CHOICE
- VOCALS
- GUITAR
- KEYBOARD
- BASS
- DRUMS
- OTHER
- LOCAL LIVE ACT
- VENUE
- MUSIC PROMOTER
- LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL
- CATEGORY YOU'D ADD

RULES

A few ground rules before we begin: Voting runs through July 13 at 11:59 p.m., and can be done either online at csindy.com or through ballots appearing in the paper — no photocopies accepted. Voters are limited to one ballot per person/e-mail address, and ballot stuffing will result in disqualification.

Once the votes have been counted and verified, this year's winners will be

announced and profiled in our Aug. 29 issue.

You'll then have the opportunity to hear the winners perform live on several indoor/outdoor stages during the FREE 2012 INDY MUSIC AWARDS & FESTIVAL, which will take place Thursday, Sept. 6 at Stargazers Theater & Event Center. See you there!

If you'd like a paper ballot to fill out, stop by the Indy offices at 235 S Nevada Ave. (cross street Vermijo). Open M-F 8:30am-5:30pm.

Brush your damn teeth & floss too, fool! — T Dog Vogel

We are not your mother. We won't lecture you about brushing, flossing, or avoiding the dentist.



"Dr. Miller is trying to make 'the Photobama' the next planking."

DR. MILLER "FACTS"

- Every 4th of July, Dr. Miller celebrates American independence by burning an effigy of King George III right on the property line between his house and his neighbor's house (who happens to be British). — *H. Bubba*
- He thinks haikus should rhyme, like normal poems, and that the number of syllables in a haiku should be irrelevant. — *B. Red*
- He is uncomfortable with the recognition he gets as the country's foremost falconer. He'd rather the attention be turned to his work with 'trouble falcons.' — *Pez*
- He recently caved in to the technology wave, and traded in his pager for a Palm Pilot. — *L. Head*
- He secretly wanted recognition for having put a tip in the jar at Starbucks last week when none of the baristas were looking. — *B. Ruth*

NEWEST TECHNOLOGIES

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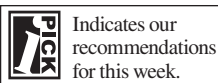
** If you have a suggestion for quotes and pictures, post your ideas on our facebook wall. If your idea is used, you will receive recognition in the ad, a free cleaning, professional whitening and a high five from Dr Miller.

**You can see all of our indy ads and register for an iPad drawing on our facebook page. We only use pictures of people who won't sue us.

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Listings



YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

2012 ArtWalk, after-hours openings, demonstrations, celebrations and tours by Old Colorado City galleries and businesses, including: Cucuru, Hunter-Wolff, Velez and Range Galleries as well as the Squash Blossom, Yobel Market and others. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Old Colorado City, 520-9494, bestartontheavenue.com.

ARTshop, a workshop series focused on strengthening the creative industries in Pueblo. Tues., July 10, 1:30-3 p.m. \$5-\$15. Rawlings Library, 100 Abriendo Ave., Pueblo, susan@pueblopag.org.

The Downtown Art Walk, a stroll through the galleries after hours, including Gallery 113 and the Depot Arts District. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. 634-5299, gallery-113.com.

Fare Bella July/August Workshops, offering courses on topics such as: painting water, watercolor batik, collage, inks and more. July 7 to Aug. 29. \$55. Fare Bella Studio and Gallery, 16 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 720/226-4315.

First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing multiple galleries, a handful of coffee shops, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and other businesses. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Pueblo, pueblopag.org.

First Friday Art Walk with Onesimo Alfaro, an evening with painter Alfaro, whose work includes scenes of his childhood and of indigenous people from his birthplace. Fri., July 6, 5-8 p.m. Velez Gallery, 2508 W. Colorado Ave., 888/ 666-3253, velezgalleries.com.

July Fourth Jewelry, a holiday celebration featuring "good company and refreshments" and a showcase of the work of local jewelry designers. Wed., July 4, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Living Studio, 741 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-0225, mountainlivingstudio.com.

Third Place — Painting with Ann Yeager, as part of this series showcasing new artists working for a month's stretch in this public studio, a chance to meet Yeager and watch her creative process live the first and third Fridays of July. Fri., July 6 and Fri., July 20, 5-10 p.m. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

ArtExhibits

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 323-3935, aurawoods.com. *3 Dimensions in Silk and Bronze*, showcasing the work of Peggy Cook and Marilyn Kirkman. July 6-31. Opening reception Fri., July 6 from 5-8 p.m. Through July 31.

ARTSpace Gallery, Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute St., 385-7900, exposeyourart.com. ARTSpace Gallery, *Raw Emotions*, an up-close and personal group of paintings from Isaac Torres. Through July 30.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Distill*, a 9-foot-square sculpture/installation by local

artist Corey Drieth. *Piece*, a look at 21st-century sexual politics through the installation art of Larry Kledzik. Both shows through July 22.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Honoring a Legacy: Selections from the Taylor Museum Collection of Native American Works*, a selection of works by Plains tribes including: decorated clothing, shields, cradleboards and more. Many works will be on display for the very first time.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Figurative and Portraiture*, a juried exhibit that celebrates the human face and form in a variety of media. Through July 17.

El Pueblo History Museum, 301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/583-0453, coloradohistory.org/hist_sites/pueblo/pueblo.htm. *Southern Colo-*



Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900, cucurugallerycafe.com. *Work by Angie Schwickerath*, a solo show of this local's work. She specializes in still life oils that are "a contemporary and personal take on a long historical tradition." July 6 to Aug. 2. Opening reception, Fri., July 6, 5-8 p.m. with live music by RVZoo and BJ Estares.

radio Photography Show, featuring black-and-white and color photographs from around the Pueblo region. Opening reception Fri., July 6 from 5-8 p.m. Through July 28.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., gallery-113.com. *Diane Vulcan*, an exhibition of watercolors, and other works, from the painter and graphic designer. Through July 15.

Laura Reilly Fine Art Gallery, 2522A W. Colorado Ave., 650-1427, laurareilly.com. *Summer's Colors*, a show and sale of "mini-masterpiece" small paintings. Opening reception Fri., July 6 from 5-8 p.m. Through August 2.

Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Illuminated*, an exhibit of textiles featuring weavings by Jeanne Steiner, a Colorado State University grad and current Colorado College instructor, as well as recent CC grad Eleanor Anderson. July 6-31. Opening reception, Fri., July 6, 5:30-9 p.m., featuring live music from Mango Fan Django and Moon Honey, and special themed yoga with Kat Tudor.

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PHOTOGRAPHY



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WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



92/64

90/62

87/61

85/63

84/62

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Works by Trevor Thomas and Jess Preble*, a dual show between these two members of the Modbo Collective. Thomas is known for working with Eric Bransby on the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's 75th anniversary mural, and Preble is a native who has studied fine art both here and in San Francisco. July 6-31. Opening reception Fri., July 6 from 5 p.m. to midnight.

S.P.Q.R., 17B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Works by Troy DeRose and Jeremy Grant*, in partnership with the Modbo show, another dual exhibit featuring works by DeRose, of Fixer Creative, which helped create the Wild Fire Tees campaign, and Grant, whose work here, *Ordinary Saints*, comments on redemption and faith through assemblage. July 6-31. Opening reception, Fri., July 6, 5:30 p.m. to midnight

Swirl Wine Bar, 717 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2294, swirlwineemporium.com. *The Robots Invade!*, a series of new works on canvas by local artist Kris Chavez. July 6-31. Opening reception, Fri., July 6, 6-8 p.m.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *Glass Magic*, a juried exhibition of glass-art in its multitudes of shapes, colors and forms. Through July 28.

Auditions&Entries

AspenPointe seeks nominations for the 2012 Heroes of Mental Health award, open to Pikes Peak Region individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of mental health treatment and substance-abuse care. Nomination form is online. 491-3741, aspenpointe.org.

Comedy&Improv

Brandt Tobler, July 5-7. \$2-\$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Concerts

"An Evening of Inspirational Song with Denise Young," as part of the Shivers Concert Series, a performance by Young, daughter of Leon Young and a gifted vocalist. Sun., July 8, 4 p.m. \$5-\$15. CC's Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Firefighter Music Benefit, a day of live music (including the Storys, the West Side Rhythm Kings and others) and an open jam to raise money for local firefighters. While you're there, buy a plate of Green Chili Mac & Cheese for a firefighter as part of McCabe's Tavern's firefighter adoption program. Sat., July 7, 3-11 p.m. McCabe's, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, mccabestavern.com.

Jerry Brown Jazz Quartet, an afternoon of jazz, dancing, door prizes and a cash bar plus a full buffet and dessert bar, set to the sound of Jerry Brown and co. performing classics from the Great American Songbook. Sun., July 8, 1-4 p.m. \$5-10. Olympian Plaza Reception and Event Center, 975 S. Union Blvd., 685-9451, ppjazz.org.

DancePerformances

Flamenco Denver Presents: Noche de Flamenco, a performance by this troupe, led by María Vázquez and featuring special guest Meagan Chandler. Sat., July 7, 8 p.m. \$15-\$25. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Dance Parties&Classes

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$3-\$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

Hoppin' at the Hogan, swing dance lessons for all ages. No partner required. Sundays, 7-10 p.m.



Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 719/232-4132, medcafe-co.com. *Simple Joy Expressions*, an exhibition of the work of local photographer Kjersten Halvorsen. Through July 15.

Free. Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 632-1096.

Weekly Latin Night at Fujiyama, learn a variety of Zumba-inspired Latin dances, including merengue, reggaeton and salsa. Thursdays, 8:30-10 p.m. \$3. Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 520-1201, springssalsa.com.

Food&Drink

Briargate Farmers Market, held at 7610 N. Union Blvd. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 592-9420.

The Broadmoor Farmers Market, Mondays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 592-9420, broadmoor.com.

Citadel Farmers Market, held in the northeast corner parking lot. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Citadel Mall, 750 Citadel Dr. East #3114, 592-9420, shophthecitadel.com.

The Curious Palate, monthly tasting sessions with dynamic topics, including: whiskey, sake, rum, Gentleman Cocktails and more. RSVP to

attend. Second Tuesday of every month, 5:30 p.m. \$25. Soirée Events & Celebrations, 1003 A&B S. Tejon St., 351-7191, coloradospringsvenue.com.

Doherty High School Farmers Market, Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doherty High School, 4515 Barnes Road, 574-1283.

First & Main Farmers Market, Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. First & Main Town Center, Powers Boulevard between Constitution Avenue and North Carefree Circle, millerfarms.net.

Fountain Farmers Market, Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main St., Fountain, 447-8637.

"How to Prepare a Delicious Three-Course Meal," a class by Chef Dan Bartlett, who will demonstrate how to prepare a pear salad, skirt steak and quick tiramisu. Space limited, reservations required at 473-8878. Sat., July 7, 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Colorado Coffee Merchants, 302 E. Fillmore St., 473-8878, coloradocoffeemerchants.com.

Memorial Park Farmers Market, Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Memorial Park, 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 574-1283.



Holiday



Celebrate the Red, White & Blue! "a family fourth" with carnival games, living history demonstrations, a watermelon-eating contest, patriotic music and plenty of picnic grounds. Wed., July 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$4-\$8. Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, 3105 Gateway Road, 578-6777, rockledgeranch.com.

A Community Rises: July 4 Waldo Canyon Fire Benefit Concert, for victims of the Waldo Canyon Fire with performances by Michael Martin Murphy, Flash Cadillac, the Flying W Wranglers and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. Wed., July 4, 7 p.m. Free, tickets required. World Arena, 3185 Venetucci Blvd., 477-2121, worldarena.com.

The Fourth Celebration, a long weekend gallery party, with lemonade, cookies and "puppy petting in both galleries." July 4-8. Hayden Hays Gallery at the Broadmoor, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com.

2012 PIKES PEAK FIRE SEASON RELIEF & RECOVERY BENEFIT CONCERT

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Fourth of July Celebration with the United States Air Force Academy Band's Falconaires Jazz Band, a performance by the band following the Sky Sox game, with patriotic favorites that salute Independence Day and those who fought the Waldo Canyon Fire. Wed., July 4. Security Service Field, 4385 Tutt Blvd., 597-1449, skysox.com.

Fourth of July Little Red Wagon Sidewalk Parade, a march from Memorial Park to Soda Springs Park with mineral springs lemonade and cookies to share with neighbors, businesses and emergency personnel. Those who wish to join the parade should meet at 12:30 p.m. at Tajine Alami, Wed., July 4, 1 p.m. manitousprings.org.

Front Range BBQ's July 4th Benefit Party, for the Waldo Canyon Fire Victim Assistance Fund, with Grass It Up and Carrie Nation & the Speakeasy and Bristol beer available by donation. Wed., July 4, 7 p.m. Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596, fronrangebbq.com.

Main Street Blast Dance, a town party with music by Phat Daddy & the Phat Horn Doctors, vendors, family activities and more. Wed., July 4, 5 p.m. Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main St., Fountain, 447-8637.

Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration, a day of outdoor activities like volleyball, horseshoes and basketball, as well as vendors and more. Wed., July 4, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Memorial Park, Woodland Park, corner of Lake Avenue and North Park

hours. Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; through Aug. 1. \$5. Dragon's Lair, 430 S. Circle Drive, 720/409-2654, micfeels.com.

LiteraryEvents

Black Cat Books and safron of Manitou Book Signing, a chance to meet and chat with Emily Kemme, whose debut, *In Search of Sushi Tora*, was a finalist for First Novel in the 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Sat., July 7, 2-4 p.m. Black Cat Books and safron of Manitou, 720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1589, manitoubooks.com.

Old Colorado City History Center Book Signing, with local authors Jan Pettit, Ruth Obee and Toni Hamill, whose work celebrates the history of the Pikes Peak Region. Tues., July 10, 6:30-8 p.m. \$3-5. Old Colorado City Historic Center, 1 S. 24th St., 636-1225, history.oldcolo.com.

Word Wednesdays, an open mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

OutdoorConcerts

32nd Annual Symphony Above the Clouds, an evening of al fresco music from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic with associate conductor Thomas Wilson, Ceol Ceili and Woodland Park city manager David Buttery as celebrity conductor. Bring lawn chairs and a picnic or purchase grill items on site. Thurs., July 5, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Woodland Park Middle School, 600 E. Kelley's Road, Woodland Park, 687-1304, symphonyabovetheclouds.org.

King of Clubs, food, drinks and a full bar complement music among the blooms. Tues., July 10, 7 p.m. \$5. The Secret Garden, 420 S. 19th St., 964-0541, coloradoscretgarden.com.

Los Texmaniacs, Bad Habitz, Fri., July 6, 8-11 p.m. \$5-\$6. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7222, sangrede-cristoarts.org.

Mad Dog & the Smokin' J's, Fri., July 6, 5-7 p.m. First & Main Town Center, Powers Boulevard between Constitution Avenue and North Carefree Circle, firststandmaintowncenter.com.

Michael Reese, Tues., July 10, 6 p.m. Manitou Springs Public Library, 701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5206, manitousprings.colibraries.org.

The Sister Brothers, Mon., July 9, 7 p.m. Monument Valley Park, 220 Mesa Road., 473-8108.

Skip Moore, held at Henrietta and Park streets in Woodland Park. Fri., July 6, 10 a.m., woodland-parkfineartsandcraftsfair.com.

Tim Brown, George Whitesell, find the event on Facebook. Sat., July 7, 10 a.m. Bergstrom Park, West Midland Avenue and South Park Street, Woodland Park, woodlandparkfineartsandcraftsfair.com.

SpecialEvents

5% Community Day, on this day, the store will donate 5 percent of its total sales to the American Red Cross Colorado Wildfire Fund. Wed., July 4. Whole Foods Market - N. Academy, 7635 N. Academy Blvd., 531-9999, wholefoodsmarket.com.

Manitou Mob, as of this writing, almost 80 people had lost their jobs in Manitou Springs. Keep the town's economy afloat by heading there atarting at noon to shop, eat, stay and play. Mon., July 9. tinyurl.com/fbmanitumob.

McCloskey's Donation Station, at McCloskey Suzuki of Southern Colorado, 6710 N. Academy Blvd., with stations where participants can donate money to the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Red Cross, Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado and other charities. Thurs., July 5, 3-7 p.m. tinyurl.com/fbmccloskeydonations.

Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Parade, the 72nd parade of its kind, which kicks off the region's biggest rodeo. Proceeds from the parade will go to a scholarship fund for the families of local wounded and fallen soldiers. Tues., July 10, 6:30 p.m. Downtown, 884-1199, coloradospringsrodeo.com.

Third Annual First Saturdays Car Show, a monthly "show-n-shine" open to all makes, models and years, with a different club hosted each month. Held in the Dick's Sporting Goods west parking lot. First Saturday of every month, 8-10 a.m. First & Main Town Center, Powers Boulevard between Constitution Avenue and North Carefree Circle, firststandmain-towncenter.com.



The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Notation With Harmony in Blue*, featuring work by Kim Sayers-Newlin and Betty Atherton. Fun fact: In honor of the upcoming Blues Under the Bridge concert outside the gallery, each work incorporates something blue. In the Commons Gallery, *Take it Away...*, a collection of artwork by Bridge Gallery artists that may be purchased and taken home immediately. July 6-31. Opening reception, Fri., July 6, 5-8 p.m., with live music by the Hopeful Heroines.

Street, Woodland Park, 687-5225, facebook.com/woodlandparkchamberofcommerce.

R&B and Hip-Hop for Hope Fire Relief Fundraiser, a benefit concert for the Waldo Canyon Fire with performances by: Musik Theory with Tony Exum Jr. and Armed Green, Kopesetik Soul, Jordan Craft and others, as well as a tribute to Independence Day by way of a video fireworks display. Wed., July 4, 7 p.m. \$10. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com.

Red, White and Blue Stripes, an Independence Day-themed First Friday Art Walk event with artist Neely Cardinal. Fri., July 6, 5-8 p.m. Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 404-3469, cupandbowl.org.

Kids&Family

Colorado Springs Indian Center events, offering weekly events such as family arts and crafts nights on Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., drum practices Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and more. Colorado Springs Indian Center, 701 N. 20th St., 599-8630, coloradospringsindiancenter.com.

Double Bubble, a one-man performance by Jim Jackson as Mr. Guffaw, who plays with bubbles of all types: some as large as the stage, others that smoke and explode, bubble sculptures and more. Ice cream sundaes will be served following the show. Through July 22. \$10. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Pictures on the Promenade, a selection of family-friendly movies on the outdoor big screen. Bring chairs and blankets and check website for this week's film. Thurs., July 5, 8:30 p.m. The Promenade Shops at Briargate, 1885 Briargate Pkwy., 265-6264, thepromenadeshopsatbriargate.com.

Teen Night at the Dragon's Lair, a 13-and-up party with DJs, snacks and beverages till the wee

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3:15-4:30 Marquis Knox
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Stranger Than Fiction

Curses, foiled again

Police investigating the murder of Juliana Mensch, 18, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., identified James Ayers, 32, and Nicole Okrzesik, 23, as suspects after obtaining their Internet searches, texts and Facebook messages. Five days after the victim was strangled, police found her body under clothing in the couple's apartment, where Mensch had been staying. Among their searches and pages visited: "Whats on those rags that make people pass out," "ways to kill people in their sleep," "could you kill someone in their sleep and no one would think it was murder" and "how to suffocate someone." They exchanged hundreds of messages afterward, some arguing over getting rid of the body: "If the smell gets worse were f***ed." The affidavit says Okrzesik posted pictures on Facebook of her and Ayers at a bar "partying" after Mensch was killed, with the comment: "Woowoo — at Wet Willie's South Beach." (HLN-TV)

After arresting Keenan Alex, 28, for stealing a bait car, L.A. County sheriff's detective Anthony Shapiro testified that Alex made incriminating statements after he read Alex his rights. The Cadillac Escalade, left with its engine running and keys in the ignition, was rigged with cameras for a TruTV reality show. The unedited video shows Shapiro didn't read Alex his rights. As a result, Alex went free and Shapiro was placed on leave. (Los Angeles's KTLA-TV)

Eyes bigger than stomachs

Japanese scientists have developed goggles designed to curb appetites by making food appear to be as much as 50 percent larger than actual size. To be more convincing, the image processing system makes the user's hand appear normal size, so the food looks bigger rather than simply magnified. "By changing the size of the food and scaling it up, we have shown that participants eat about 10 percent less over the course of a day" wearing the goggles, Takuji Narumi, one of the University of Tokyo researchers working on the project, said. (Britain's *Daily Telegraph*)

Slightest provocation

Police charged Calvin Bernard Hill, 54, with stabbing a 41-year-old man while the two were riding in the back

seat of a PT Cruiser in Greenwood City, S.C., after they argued over which one of them "can have the most sex." When questioned, Hill denied stabbing the victim, claiming, "That man stabbed his self." (The Smoking Gun)

Never mind

A 78-year-old woman reported her deceased husband's 1973 Chevrolet van was missing from the front yard of her home in Dacula, Ga., though it was inoperative. Later that day, she notified police that "she could not see the vehicle which was covered by the tall grass that grew around the vehicle, and she automatically assumed the vehicle was stolen." (*Dacula Patch*)

Sperm in the news

America is the world's leading sperm exporter. According to analyst Market-data, the U.S. fertility industry has gone from \$979 million in 1988 to \$4.3 billion projected for 2013. American sperm is considered the "gold standard," *Time* senior editor Jeffrey Kluger said on *CBS This Morning*. He attributed its reputation to FDA-regulated quality control on sperm donations, including who can donate, and variety. Also, unlike Canada, Australia and Western Europe, U.S. donors may remain anonymous. Paid according to quality standards such as height, health and education, they earn as much as \$60,000 a year. (CBS News)

The Supreme Court ruled children conceived by artificial insemination after their father's death don't qualify for survivor benefits. Social Security rules are designed "to benefit primarily those the deceased wage earner actually supported in his or her lifetime," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said. (Associated Press)

Mama's boy

A New York jury convicted Thomas Parkin, 51, of fraud after he cashed his dead mother's Social Security checks for six years, stealing about \$44,000. He also joined a scam involving a fore-closed Brooklyn apartment building that belonged to his mother. Perpetuating the fraud, he sued the new owner and set up a meeting with prosecutors, who said he showed up "dressed as his 77-year-old mother, wearing a new red cardigan, lipstick, manicured nails and breathing through an oxygen tank." (Reuters)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Read more *Stranger Than Fiction* at csindy.com.

Spirituality

World Peace Prayer, a free event to promote peace through communal spiritual practice. Sun., July 8, 10-11:30 a.m. Colorado Springs Buddhist Center, 703 N. Arrawana St., 635-8968.

Sports & Recreation

Fourth Annual Gold Rush-Gold Rush 9-Mile Mountain Race, one of Colorado's most scenic races over paved streets, dirt roads and improved mountain trails, followed by a chili cook-off and locally mined gold prizes for the race winners. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. at the corner of 3rd and Victor Ave., Victor. Pre-register at active.com. Sat., July 7, 8:30 a.m. \$40. 360-9529.

Family Fun Fridays, an all-ages-friendly tennis event with open court time, slower, lighter balls available for games and point play, smaller courts and nets set up for the little ones, and rackets provided if needed. Fri., July 6, 6-7 p.m. \$10. Memorial Park, 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 323-5600.

Meet & Greet with NFL Athletes, a chance to shake the hands of the current and former NFL athletes in town for the Seventh Annual Pro Football Camp at UCCS. Mon., July 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 266-9308, profootballcamp.com.

Pickleball Lessons, a chance to learn about the tennis-like sport, with all needed equipment included. Saturdays, noon; through Aug. 31. Free. Monument Valley Park, 220 Mesa Road, 231-5874.

Praise with the Pros, a worship service with the current and former NFL athletes in town for the Seventh Annual Pro Football Camp at UCCS. Tues., July 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Woodmen Valley Chapel, 290 E. Woodmen Road, 266-9308, profootballcamp.com.

Seventh Annual Pro Football Camp, a four-day football camp for kids ages 7-14 with more than a dozen current and former NFL athletes. Tues., July 10, 8-11:30 a.m., Wed., July 11, 8-11:30 a.m., Thurs., July 12, 8-11:30 a.m. and Fri., July 13, 8-11:30 a.m. \$180-224. UCCS' Mountain Lion Stadium, 5025 N. Nevada Ave., 266-9308, profootballcamp.com.

Swingin' Sunday Tennis Mixer, a great way to meet new tennis partners. Start by breaking into mixed doubles teams, then keep moving courts and changing partners. Sun., July 8, 10 a.m. to noon. \$5. Memorial Park, 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 323-5600, ColoradoSpringsTennis.com.

US Ultimate, the inaugural U.S. championships in the sport of ultimate. July 5-8. Free. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 634-7333, ext. 1000, usultimate.org.

Stage

Desperado: The Ballad of Big, Bold Dan, a fun summer melodrama for all ages. Through Sept. 1. Weekday matinees \$8.25-\$14.25; weekends/evenings \$10.25-\$16.25. July 6 to Sept. 1. Butte Opera House, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, 689-6402, buttetheater.com.

Oliver Twist, alternating with *Great Expectations*, a marionette version of this classic, staged as part of Simpich's Colorado Dickens Festival. July 5 to Sept. 1. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Editor's note: For volunteer opportunities pertaining to the Waldo Canyon Fire, visit Pikes Peak United Way at volunteerpikespeak.org.

Colorado Springs Diversity Festival seeks volunteers to help at this year's event. festivalvolunteer@cospdiversityforum.org, cospdiversityforum.org.

Colorado Springs Indian Center seeks help with its educational and cultural programs, clerical



My Fair Lady, the classic musical tale of transformation and true love. Through Sept. 1. Weekday matinees \$8.25-\$14.25; weekends/evenings \$10.25-\$16.25. Through Sept. 1. Butte Opera House, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, 877/689-6402, 689-3247, buttetheater.com.

duties, website support, fundraising, event planning and more. Contact the center to get started. Colorado Springs Indian Center, 701 N. 20th St., 599-8630, coloradospringindiancenter.com.

Lookwhatthecatbroughtin seeks volunteers with bottle-feeding experience for orphaned kittens. Help needed with office duties and event assistance. 331-6852, lookwhatthecatbroughtin.org.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care seeks volunteers in various capacities such as working in prescription animal therapy, courier duties and vigil volunteers (who sit with dying patients). Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave. #600, 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center seeks volunteers interested in helping PPTRC treat folks with disabilities. 495-3908, pptrc.org.

Silver Key Senior Services seeks donations of non-perishable food items for its pantry. Call or go online for drop-off information. Silver Key Senior Services, 2250 Bott Ave., 884-2300, silverkey.org.

Venetucci Farm seeks volunteers for July's annual Save the Pumpkins Weeding Crop Mob. Online preregistration requested. Venetucci Farm, 5210 S. U.S. Hwy. 85, 391-8102, venetuccifarm.org.

Certain events subject to change or cancellation due to the Waldo Canyon Fire. Call venues for event confirmation.

MORE

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Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing by **Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

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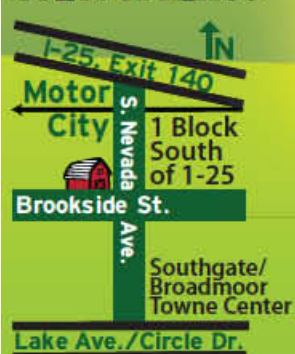


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CannaBiz

Medical marijuana news of the week

At last

Give or take a minute or two, it was 4:20 p.m. Friday when leukemia sufferer **Bob Crouse** was declared innocent of all charges against him. It was a fitting time to lift the legal weight off the shoulders of this medical cannabis patient who was charged with felony cultivation and distribution of marijuana, and has been fighting this particular battle for over a year and a half.

Calls to Crouse were not returned as of press time, but a YouTube video by user AgentOfDoubt shows the trial's immediate aftermath — a beaming and tearful Crouse hugging supporters, and exclaiming, "Wow! Wow!" outside the courtroom. Jury members deliberated for less than four hours before providing Crouse the same outcome as Elisa Kappelmann and Jesse Vriese, others who have been similarly charged.

"There's a lot of education that still needs to happen, and it's OK, it takes time — but not guilty on all charges!" the joyful MMJ patient says in a recorded impromptu speech. "We've seen how valiant the city has rallied around the awfulness of the fires and the destruction, but it's beautiful to see it come together in a courtroom in the midst of all of this."

And because the Waldo Canyon Fire's been nothing if not wantonly affecting, this note was included with the Cannabis Therapy Institute's press release: "Bob has been forced to evacuate his home due to Colorado wildfires. Please send donations to celebrate this victory [and] help support Bob and his 90-year-old mother, who have been displaced by the fires." The pair have since been allowed to return home.

Keef crumbs

• The *Denver Post* reports that a **Fort Collins** advocacy group has gathered enough signatures to place a question on that city's November ballot, seeking to lift the restriction on medical-marijuana centers.

"Voters last November passed the ban on Fort Collins' 20 dispensaries by a 53-to-47 percent margin," reports Monte Whaley. "But former dispensary owner Kirk Scramstad said that vote was not a true reflection of how most residents feel about medical marijuana. This November's election, which features a presidential vote, will likely draw more voters to the ballot box who will be more supportive of the measure, Scramstad said."

• The group backing marijuana-decriminalization effort Amendment 64 has announced the formation of "a group of concerned parents, organized for the purpose of highlighting the benefits of regulating marijuana to keep it away from teens." **Moms and Dads for Marijuana Regulation** — no doubt created in response to the "No on 64" campaign's positioning of children as the main sufferers — unveiled a new billboard at 1600 Federal Blvd. in Denver that reads, "Please, card my son. Regulate the sale of marijuana and help me keep it out of his hands."

— **Bryce Crawford**

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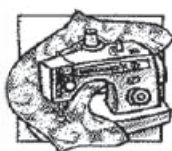
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FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsný



CANCER (June 21-July 22): The breadth of your imagination is legendary. Can anyone else wander around the world without once leaving your home? Can anyone else reincarnate twice in a few weeks without having to go through the hassle of actually dying? Yet now and then there do come times when your fantasies should be set aside so you may soak up the teachings that flow your way when you physically venture outside of your comfort zone. Now is such a moment. Please don't take a merely virtual break in the action. Get yourself away from it all, even if it's only to the marvelous diversion or magic sanctuary on the other side of town.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Members of the Nevada Republican Party have concocted a bizarre version of family values. A large majority of them are opposed to gay marriage and yet are all in favor of legal brothels. Their wacky approach to morality is as weird as that of the family values crowd in Texas, which thinks it's wrong to teach adolescents about birth control even though this has led to a high rate of teen pregnancies. My question is, why do we let people with screwed-up priorities claim to be the prime caretakers of "family values"? In accordance with the astrological omens, I urge you to reject the conventional wisdom as you clarify what that term means to you. It's an excellent time to deepen and strengthen your moral foundation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There's a term for people who have the ardor of a nymphomaniac in their efforts to gather useful information: *infomaniac*. That's exactly what you should be in the coming week. You need data and evidence, and you need them in abundance. What you don't know would definitely hurt you, so make sure you find out everything you need to know. Be as thorough as a spy, as relentless as a muckraking journalist, and as curious as a child. P.S. See if you can set aside as many of your strong opinions and emotional biases as possible. Otherwise they might distort your quest for the raw truth. Your word of power is *empirical*.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Of all the signs of the zodiac, you're the best at discovering short cuts. No one is more talented than you at the art of avoiding boredom. And you could teach a master course in how to weasel out of strenuous work without looking like a weasel. None of those virtues will come in handy during the coming week, however. The way I see it, you should concentrate very hard on not skipping any steps. You should follow the rules, stick to the plan, and dedicate yourself to the basics. Finish what you start, please! (Sorry about this grind-it-out advice. I'm just reporting what the planetary omens are telling me.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In Norse mythology, Fenrir was a big bad wolf that the gods were eager to keep tied up. In the beginning they tried to do it with metal chains, but the beast broke free. Then they commissioned the dwarves to weave a shackle out of six impossible things: a bear's sinews, a bird's spit, a fish's breath, a mountain's root, a woman's beard, and the sound a cat's paws made as it walked. This magic fetter was no thicker than a silk ribbon, but it worked very well. Fenrir couldn't escape from it. I invite you to take inspiration from this story, Leo. As you deal with your current dilemma, don't try to fight strength with strength. Instead, use art, craft, subtlety and even trickery. I doubt you'll need to gather as many as six impossible things. Three will probably be enough. Two might even work fine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a time when your personal actions will have more power than usual to affect the world around you. The ripples you set in motion could ultimately touch people you don't even know and transform situations you're not part of. That's a lot of responsibility! I suggest, therefore, that you be on your best behavior. Not necessarily your mildest, most polite behavior, mind you. Rather, be brave, impeccable, full of integrity and a little wild.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Goldfish in small aquariums stay small. Those that spend their lives in ponds get much bigger. What can we conclude from these facts? The size and growth rate of goldfish are directly

related to their environment. I'd like to suggest that a similar principle will apply to you Librans in the next 10 months. If you want to take maximum advantage of your potential, you will be wise to put yourself in spacious situations that encourage you to expand. For an extra boost, surround yourself with broad-minded, uninhibited people who have worked hard to heal their wounds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Over the years, you've explored some exotic, even strange ideas about what characterizes a good time. In the coming days, I'm guessing you will add to your colorful tradition with some rather unprecedented variations on the definition of "pleasure" and "happiness." I don't imply that this is a problem. To paraphrase Wiccan credo, as long as it harms no one (including yourself), anything goes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There come times when you have a sacred duty to be open to interesting tangents and creative diversions; times when it makes sense to wander around aimlessly with wonder in your eyes and be alert for unexpected clues that grab your attention. But this is not one of those times. Rather, you really do need to stay focused on what you promised yourself you would concentrate on. The temptation may be high to send out sprays of arrows at several different targets. But I hope that instead you stick to one target and take careful aim with your best shots.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I've meditated on a certain need that you have been neglecting, a need chronically underestimated, belittled or ignored, by both you and others. I am hoping that this achy longing will soon be receiving some of your smart attention and tender care. One good way to get the process started is simply to acknowledge its validity and importance. Doing so will reveal a secret that will help you attend to your special need with just the right touch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Due to the pressure-packed influences coming to bear on your destiny, you have Official Cosmic Permission to fling three dishes against the wall. (But no more than three.) You also have clearance to hurl rocks in the direction of heaven, throw darts at photos of your nemeses, and cram a coconut cream pie into your own face. Please understand, however, taking actions like these should be just the initial phase of your master plan for the week. In the next phase, you should capitalize on all the energy you've made available for yourself through purgative acts like the ones I mentioned. Capitalize how? For starters, you could dream and scheme about how you will liberate yourself from things that make you angry and frustrated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check to see if you have any of the following symptoms: 1) sudden eruptions of gratitude; 2) a declining fascination with conflict; 3) seemingly irrational urges that lead you to interesting discoveries; 4) yearnings to peer more deeply into the eyes of people you care about; 5) a mounting inability to tolerate boring influences that resist transformation; 6) an increasing knack for recognizing and receiving the love that's available to you. If you have at least three of the six symptoms, you are certifiably in close alignment with the cosmic flow, and should keep doing what you've been doing. If none of these symptoms have been sweeping through you, get yourself adjusted.

HOMEWORK: You can read free excerpts of my most recent book at bit.ly/GoodHappy. Tell me what you think at truthrooster@gmail.com.

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CHESS QUIZ

WHITE TO PLAY

Hint: Win a pawn.

For puzzle answers, see page 53

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EASY

2÷	6×	1	2-
		7+	
3-			2÷
3	3+		

CHALLENGING

2÷	5	8×		
4	3+	6×	3-	90×
5-				5
2-		11+	1-	
15+	3-	4	1-	
		2+		

Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number shown by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 53

RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

- Veers quickly
- Be aware of
- Breakfast cereal with a propeller-headed alien on the front of the box
- "Mmm-hmm"
- Part of a foot
- Before
- One sharing an apartment
- Rhône feeder
- Daddy Warbucks's henchman
- "Chow down!"
- Eastern dance-drama
- City near Vance Air Force Base
- Facilities housing large planes?
- Title in S. America
- Poles, e.g.
- Online financial services company
- Tower, of a sort

DOWN

- Actress Parsons
- One of the Muses
- Film for which Lee Marvin won Best Actor
- Pre-C.I.A. org.
- Captain's log detail
- Flanged structural element
- 1942 Tommy Dorsey hit with Frank Sinatra vocals
- Big Irish cream brand
- Event after a bowl game win
- Coppola subject
- Engagement precursor
- Hoard
- T.A.E. part
- Highest point
- D'O'ly Opera Company
- Droids, etc.
- Word that can precede each set of circled letters, forming a literal hint for entering certain answers in this puzzle
- Bad mark in school?
- Approximation ending
- "Wow!"
- Main
- City near Entebbe airport
- Sight-seeing grp.?
- Calendar mo.
- Marine snail
- Give out
- Opened
- Coast-to-coast route, informally
- Phone voice?
- Stated one's case
- Ones on top of the world?
- German treat
- Mont
- Mil. branch
- Saharan
- Violinist Leopold
- F.D.R. initiative
- Driver
- Spa, for one
- Sorrento seven
- Suffix with plug
- Frequently
- Galerie, art museum on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue
- Five-time U.S. Open winner
- Set as a price
- Farm pen
- Desktop brand
- Rival of Ole Miss
- Light years off
- Record abbr.
- Allay
- Eastern rule
- "The Simpsons" character
- Blue, say: Abbr.
- The "2" in x²: Abbr.
- Erstwhile
- Institution founded by Thos. Jefferson

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 53
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- Bobbi, Jade, Lori, & Amy

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CHECK OUT OUR PLAYING AROUND LISTINGS ON **PAGE 36**

Independent

SUDOKU X
Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 53

9		1						
3	7			1	8	5		
						9		
7				1	5			
	6			3		2		
		3		9				8
	3							
	9	7	2					
					4		6	

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This week's answers

SUDOKU

9	4	1	5	2	8	6	3	7
3	7	6	9	4	1	8	5	2
2	5	8	7	6	3	1	9	4
7	8	9	4	1	2	5	6	3
4	6	5	8	3	7	9	2	1
1	2	3	6	9	5	7	4	8
5	3	4	1	7	6	2	8	9
6	9	7	2	8	4	3	1	5
8	1	2	3	5	9	4	7	6

Crossword

ZIGS	KNOW	QUIPS
ISEE	ARCH	UNTIL
SUITEMATE	ISERE	
THEASP	LETSEAT	
KABUKI	ENID	
SAWMILLS	SRA	
EUROPEANS	CLOAN	
REPOMAN	ESTELLE	
GRATO	CATBALLOU	
OSS	STARDATE	
IBAR	TAKEME	
BAILEYS	PARADE	
MAFIA	COURTSHIP	
AMASS	ALVA	APEX
CARTE	PDAIS	JUMP

KEN KEN

3	6	5	2	1	4
4	2	3	1	5	6
6	1	2	4	3	5
1	4	6	5	2	3
5	3	1	6	4	2
2	5	4	3	6	1

CHESS QUIZ

From page 50:
1. R(g)d3!
(with the threat of...
Rxd7). If 1. ...
Bc6, simply 2.
Rxb3



Advice Goddess

By Amy Alkon

Thrilla in vanilla

My best friend is a guy. We have tons in common and our conversations are lively, honest and deep. He's basically everything I've ever wanted in my future husband, but he has an infatuation for Filipina women half his age. I'm 37, his age and Caucasian. His plan is to find and marry a girl from the Philippines. He's so stuck on marrying a Filipina that he is learning to speak Tagalog and travels to the Philippines twice a year but has yet to have anything work out. I hope he'll eventually develop the attraction to me that I have for him and that compatibility will trump looks, because he often tells me how much he appreciates me. Am I fooling myself, or could he outgrow his Filipina fetish? — Boring American Woman

If people could override their physical attractions, strip clubs could hire homely but very kind women to bare only their souls. For the price of a lap dance, they'd tell a man all about their work easing the suffering of cancer patients or nursing stray dogs back to health. Afterward, he'd go home to his hot but mean wife and do his marital duty — while fantasizing about Martha getting little Buster to a really good home.

We can't rejigger whom we lust after.

Whenever you start looking at your friend through future-husband-colored glasses, remind yourself that the guy's learning Tagalog, and not because he calls the cable company and they say, "Press one for Tagalog." Lust is a powerful and automatic biochemical reaction driven by sex hormones in the brain. One study by Dr. Ingrid R. Olson suggests that we appraise whom we find hot in 13 milliseconds or less

— approximately 25 to 30 times faster than an eye blink. And unfortunately, we can't rejigger whom we lust after — any more than we can convince ourselves that something that smells like ass really smells like lily of the valley.

You need to stop focusing on how you click with this guy. I really click with my friend Debbie, but when I look at her and feel longing, it's to ask her where she got her barrette. We're well-matched as friends and hair accessory shoppers but nothing more. What you need is a guy with a you fetish — one who thinks you're the hottest thing since he leaned back, trying to look cool for you, and burned his hand on the party host's stove.

To find that man, banish your Filipina-phile from your mind as anything more than a friend with a thing for women who aren't you. If that's hard, stop hanging out with him so much until it stops being hard. Save for meeting a fairy godmother and having her transform you into a 4-foot-11, 18-year-old hottie from Manila, there's only one way this guy will fall for you, and that's by installing a tripwire.

Getting into your genes

I'm 27 and passionately in love with a 24-year-old woman I just started dating. I said something in passing about not knowing whether I want kids, and she said, "If I'm not pregnant within two years by you, I'll get pregnant by somebody else." Shocked, I asked who. Her answer: "Preferably a friend, but it doesn't really matter." I wonder whether I matter or I am just being used. — Disturbed

You were probably picturing yourself as more of a sex machine than a sperm dispenser. (If there's a movie of your relationship in your mind, it's the kind that gets blocked by Net Nanny software. In hers, Julie Andrews and the von Trapp children bound through the meadows in their clothes made out of curtains.)

The fact that her romantic role model seems to be the speeding bullet doesn't mean that she isn't into you or that she's using you. In fact, her honesty suggests otherwise. (She didn't let you get all attached only to tell you to either dad up or get out.) But numerous studies splashed across the media show that single parenting disadvantages kids economically, emotionally, in school performance, and in their later relationships, and troublingly, all she can think about is the tumbleweed blowing around her empty womb.

If you know you don't want kids, now's the time to leave. If you aren't sure, you can stick around and try to figure it out, but the giant ticking uterus hanging over your head may warp the course of getting to know her. After all, it's kind of a romance-killer to be hearing "It had to be you ..." while you know she's thinking, "Then again, the UPS guy looks like he has a healthy sperm count."

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of *I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society*.



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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

For Nuggets, a double déjà vu

As the Denver Nuggets prepared to make the 20th pick in the NBA Draft's first round last week, anticipation and speculation shifted into high gear.

After all, the Nuggets looked like a team on the cusp of a breakthrough this past season. Having already survived the trade of star **Carmelo Anthony** to New York, they endured yet another major trade, dealing **Nene** to Washington during the season, and still came away strong enough to make the playoffs.

Denver lost in the first postseason round to the Los Angeles Lakers, but the general assumption around the league was that with one or two smart moves in the draft, head coach **George Karl** might have the roster he needed to make a much longer playoff run.

Just a year ago, the Nuggets had made a terrific choice at No. 22, grabbing Morehead State's **Kenneth Faried**, whose fast development as a relentless, energetic rebounder should help them for years to come.

SPORTS SHOT

Heading East Boise State did decide at the last minute to join the Big East in 2013, leaving the Mountain West Conference — a tough blow for the MWC.

Sayonara Amid all the uproar over the fire, many Rockies fans might have missed Bob Apodaca "resigning" as pitching coach, asking to be reassigned in the organization. But the damage is done for this year.

Delayed start Word comes from the NFL that at least four of the Denver Broncos' late games this season, when part of a CBS doubleheader, will start at 2:25 p.m. instead of 2:15, so viewers won't miss endings of other games.

Here's an idea No doubt we'll see many fundraiser ideas for recovering from the fire. How about The Broadmoor trying to bring Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and other pro golfers here for a one-day exhibition?

This time, many thought Denver might pick a big man or a point guard. With another Faried-type success, that would put the Nuggets in much better position.

Instead, they selected **Evan Fournier**.

He's a long, stringy, wimpy French fry, a 6-foot-7 guard with the body frame of a toothpick. He's not physical, and he's also not much of a shooter. In fact, he's projected at least two years away from ready for the NBA.

Many followers of the Nuggets instantly likened him to **Nikoloz Tskitishvili**, the 7-footer from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, whom Denver grabbed with the No. 5 pick of the 2002 draft. Tskitishvili never amounted to anything, a huge waste.

That comparison is understandable. But this scenario reminds me more of 1996, when the Nuggets needed help in the draft, yet traded down from 10th to 23rd in the first round. Still, they could

have had the likes of point guard **Derek Fisher** or forward **Jerome Williams**.

Instead, they went with **Efthimis Rentzias**, a 6-foot-11 project from Greece. The reports were mixed on Rentzias, who just weeks later would be on Greece's team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

At the Summer Games, I made it a point to cover one of Greece's pool-round games and arranged an interview with Rentzias. I even set up an interpreter volunteering in Atlanta — University of Colorado business professor **John Lymberopoulos**, father of longtime Channel 5 morning anchor **Georgiann Lymberopoulos**.

Rentzias entered that game several times as Greece's backup center, and he looked decent — for a few minutes. But quickly his play turned sporadic at best, and he looked totally out of shape. After the game, we were told to meet Rentzias in a "mixed zone" where athletes and media could mingle. We found Rentzias with several teammates, smoking cigarette after cigarette.

His immaturity was as obvious as his on-court inconsistency. Still puffing away, Rentzias said he should've been a starter, despite his lack of endurance, and added, "I don't think I will have trouble playing in the NBA." But his coach, fluent in English, candidly said, "Right now, Efthimis is not so strong in the heart. That's why he doesn't play too much yet."

It was obvious that the Nuggets had made a serious mistake. Other Europeans, most notably **Pau Gasol** of Spain, have been able to thrive in the NBA. But that continent never has been a huge gold mine for NBA teams.

Rentzias never played for Denver. But the franchise has continued to make these draft blunders, when the Nuggets could have done much better with American college players.

They could have had Syracuse center **Fab Melo**, a 7-foot defensive presence. Or Vanderbilt shooting guard **John Jenkins**, point guard **Marquis Teague** of Kentucky (my favorite) or power forward **Jared Sullinger** of Ohio State. Then they could have gambled on Fournier in the second round or, more appropriately, as a post-draft, free-agent signee.

Instead, that first-round draft pick instantly turns into a big, fat zero.

And Denver fans won't forget it any time soon.

— routon@csindy.com



RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

The best part of our city

There is a place in our village these days where the darkness of the horrible fire is lifted, a place where the light shines and the human spirit breaks free from this monumental sadness. There's a place where hope already has been making a comeback, ahead of everyone else.

It's not an imaginary place. It's very real. You can go there each morning and evening. As the heavy, sickening smoke of the Waldo Canyon Fire washes across our village and keeps our worst fears alive, there's a place where you can stand and cheer and cry out from deep inside, a place where the soul finally finds something more powerful than grief.

It's a place on the west side of town where you can watch the exhausted, soot-covered heroes coming back from the flames or summoning the courage to throw themselves once again into the godless fire. A place where you can see the faces of unfathomable bravery.

It's a place where you can watch the firefighters go by.

For days, people have begun lining the sidewalks by 7:30 each morning in the neighborhoods near 31st and Fontanero streets. They return each evening before 8 o'clock. And in the morning and evening they wait, young and old, men, women and children, some holding American flags, some holding handmade

signs of thanks, and some just trying to hold back the tears.

They come then, the firefighters, in pickup trucks and giant fire trucks and school buses, too. Dirty, battered men and women head up the hill to their camp at Holmes Middle School as

others come down the hill to begin another shift, another round of dragon-slaying inside the lines amid the flames and glowing embers and lung-scorching smoke.

They have put their lives on the line every day so that our village nestled hard against the Rocky Mountains — a village that lost 346 homes and two people in the blink of an eye — doesn't lose any more. They fight day and night so no more of us die.

The crowd on the sidewalks peers down each roadway, searching for the first glimpse of these warriors. The first — a pickup truck painted in the green of the U.S. Forest Service — brings everyone to the curb. Cheers grow louder. The flags and signs are held overhead. Cries of joy and the echo of applause fill the acrid air.

The shift-change parade builds, from a trickle of small trucks and SUVs to the big fire rigs and buses bursting with firefighters. The crowd roars. A man stands silent with a fist raised overhead in salute. Women put their hands over their mouths. A few older men allow a tear to run down a cheek.

And then, when you think your heart can't bear another moment, a hand slowly emerges from a bus or a fire engine window, a hand caked with dirt and blackened by the ash. It waves a tired greeting toward the adoring throng and then another hand pokes out from a window, then another, and soon the firefighters ease their faces toward the windows and the people on the street roar and car horns blare in the smoky orange light.

The faces in the pickups and buses and fire engines on a recent night seldom smiled. The exhaustion was plain, the unthinkable fatigue unmistakably etched.

But they waved and gave the thumbs-up sign and then they were gone, heading back to their schoolyard camp for a meal and a few hours of sleep before their war on this terrible fire would resume.

And as they vanished up the hill amid the smoke that now seems to be a permanent neighbor, the people turned their misty eyes back down the road. There would be more firefighters coming. And more cheers.

Because when they are done, when these remarkable men and women have killed the monster that roars above us in the hills and mountains, when they settle back into their local fire stations or head off into the sunset to battle another fire in another place, we want them to know what they have meant to us.

We want them to know that we will never forget them.

— rangerrich@csindy.com



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